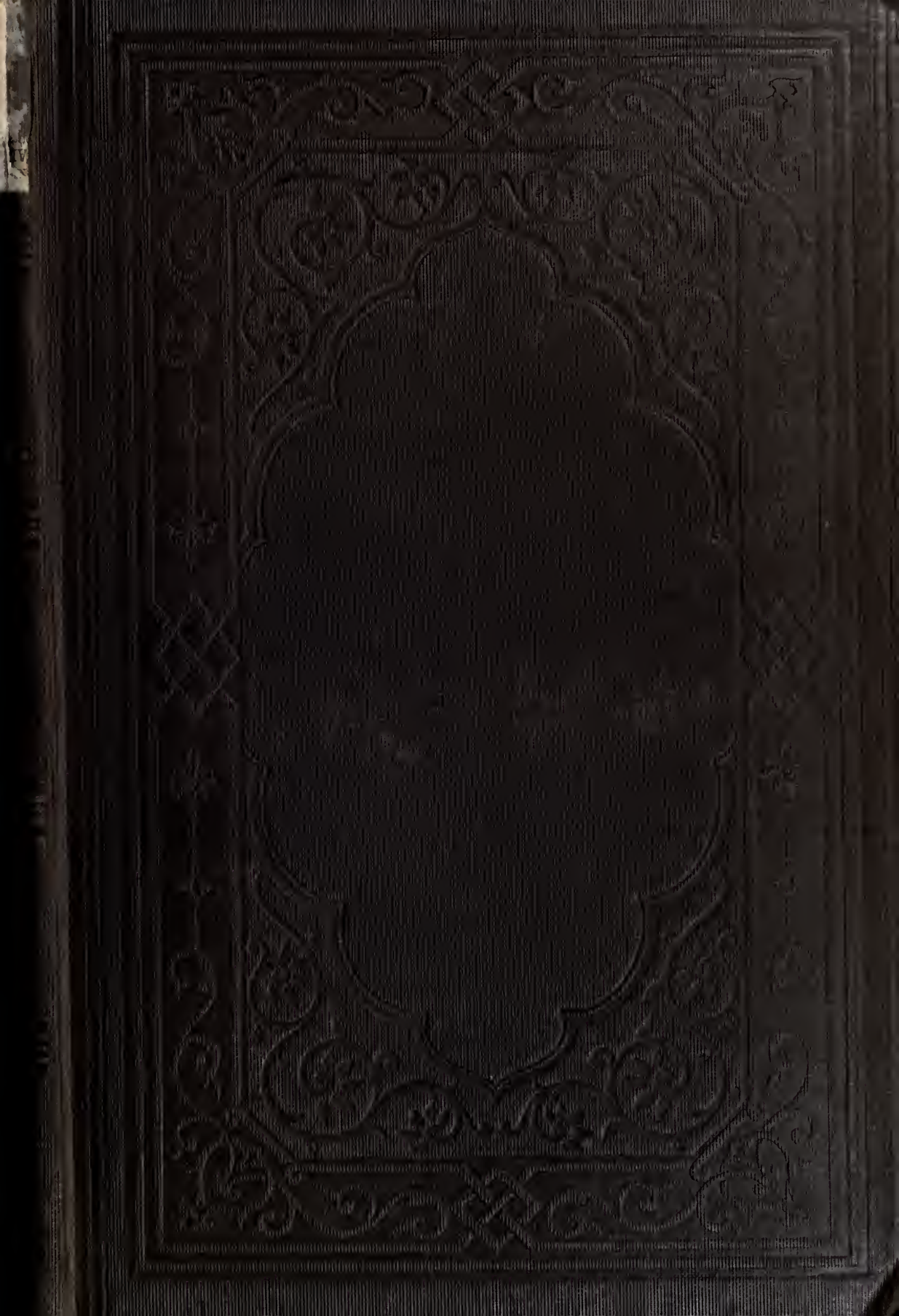




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THE BORDERER'S
TABLE BOOK;
OR,
GATHERINGS
OF THE
Local History and Romance
OF THE
ENGLISH AND SCOTTISH BORDER.

BY
M. A. RICHARDSON.

IN EIGHT VOLUMES,
ILLUSTRATED BY UPWARDS OF NINE HUNDRED WOOD-CUTS.

VOL. III. HISTORICAL DIVISION.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne :

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THE LOCAL HISTORIAN'S TABLE BOOK,

&c., &c.

CHAPTER I.

A.D. 1800.



THE opening of the year 1800 was marked by the effects of war and the failure of the harvest in 1799, a large portion of which in the southern parts of Northumberland, remained uncut till near the end of January. These circumstances combined to produce such a dearth, that wheat in Newcastle market sold at one guinea a Winchester bushel. On January 4, a public meeting was held in the Guildhall, Newcastle, for the purpose of establishing a public soup-kitchen for the relief of the poor, and to which benevolent scheme the corporation of that town gave fifty guineas. They also erected a large and convenient kitchen at the east end of the poultry market, in the High-bridge. A subscription was likewise formed at Durham for assisting the poor of that city and its neighbourhood, and the hall of St. Nicholas' workhouse was fitted up as a soup-kitchen.—*Local Papers.*

January 27.—Died, Francis Hill, well known by the name of *Old Franky*. He had attended in a sod hut on the road between New-

castle and Shields for upwards of fifty years, to solicit the charity by which his harmless existence was supported.—*Ibid.*

1800 (March 2).—Three prisoners, named John Outerside, under sentence of transportation, Richard Lowe, committed for forgery, and Thomas Graham, committed for high-way robbery, effected their escape from the gaol of Newcastle. By wrenching a bar from the inside of the chimney of their cell they forced their way up the chimney to the roof of the prison, whence, by cutting their bed-clothes and knotting the pieces together, which they tied to a sun-dial on the roof, they descended to the field adjoining Gallowgate. John Sill, convicted with Outerside, attempted to escape at the same time, but being rather corpulent, he stuck fast in the chimney, and could neither get out nor back again, till he was assisted down by the keepers. Outerside was taken the same day by the intrepidity of Mr. Gale, the gaoler, at Woodend, near Beamish, and Graham would have shared the same fate, had some countrymen who were spectators of the pursuit, lent their assistance; while Mr. Gale kept guard upon Outerside, he offered £5 to any who would assist in the pursuit of Graham, which they uniformly refused.—*Local Papers.*

A similar escape was effected on the same day by four of the felons in the gaol at Morpeth, two of whom were soon taken. One of the above four prisoners who made their escape, was John Winter, of the notorious family of that name.—*Ibid.*

This month, a severe contest to represent the city of Durham, took place between Major Matthew Russell, and Michael Angelo Taylor, esq. At the close of the poll, the numbers were for Mr. Taylor 464; for Major Russell 360, and 7 for Mr. Barker who started on the preceding Monday.—*Mon. Mag.*

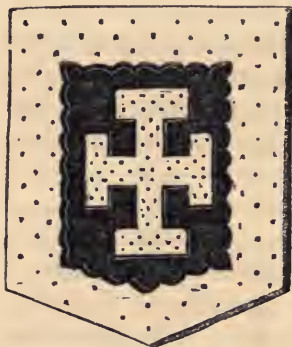
The beginning of this year, no less than sixty-nine out of seventy-three vessels, laden with coals, from Shields and Sunderland, were wrecked in their passage to London.—*Ibid.*

April 4.—Died, in the 40th year of his age, Mr. Solomon Hodgson, many years printer and publisher of the Newcastle Chronicle newspaper, in the conduct of which, he uniformly advanced the genuine sentiments of his mind, uninfluenced by party or interest of any kind, and unconnected with any political club or society whatever. Firmly attached to the principles of constitutional liberty, to recal the attention of his readers to those principles, was an object to which he devoted his chief exertions. He feelingly lamented the miseries of war; and so long as he could do it consistently with personal safety, he exercised the privilege of declaring his conscientious sentiments with boldness and freedom, but always without descending to licentiousness or personality. His remains lie interred in St.



John's church-yard, under a table monument, next to that of John Cunningham, the celebrated pastoral poet.—*Local Rec.*

1800 (May 11).—One hundred and forty-four vessels sailed from Shields, under convoy for the Baltic, having on board, besides other commodities, 11,600 chaldrons of coals, Newcastle measure.—*Mon. Mag.*



May 18.—Died, at Blackwell Grange, near Darlington, aged 64 years, George Allan, esq. He was the son of James Allan, of Darlington, and is well known in the literary world as an antiquary and amateur printer. He devoted himself with extreme ardour, from an early age, to the collection of materials for a history of his native country. His library was rich in English topography, but it also contained a number of valua-

ble manuscripts connected with the county of Durham. In 1774, he circulated printed queries to elicit information; but he finally declined the task of arranging for the press the materials which had cost him so much time and labour; and his printed works are confined to a re-publication of Hegge's Legend of St. Cuthbert; Hall's Catalogue of Bishops, from the Library of the Dean and Chapter; the Life of Bishop Trover, 1776; the Returns of Members of Parliament for the county of Durham; the Foundation Charter of the Cathedral; and the well-known collections for Gateshead, Sherburn, and Greatham hospitals. The ardour of Mr. Allan, as a collector, was not, however,

confined to provincial antiquities; and he purchased at the splendid price of seven hundred pounds, Mr. Tunstall's (of Wycliffe,) noble collection of British birds, antiquities and curiosities; of which the birds alone are said to have cost Mr. Tunstall five thousand. When this museum, augmented by the industry of Mr. Allan, was offered for sale by the trustees under his will, it was purchased by the Literary and Philosophical Society at Newcastle, and now forms a part of the extensive and valuable collection of the Natural History Society. Mr. Allan's most remarkable pursuit, however, was printing for himself and friends, at his private press, various works on antiquarian and biographical topics. He commenced this about 1768; he printed gratis, and from the small number of copies that were taken off, his works have long since become *libri rarissimi*, and most of them are highly valued by collectors. It is asserted, that his proofs never stood in need of correction, himself being not only the compositor, but the distributor of the types when the form was broken up. He never read but with a pin in his hand; and it is said, that he wrote a quire of paper for almost every day he lived;—and though constantly employed, the conversation of others never appeared to interrupt him, and yet he heard all that passed. In 1764, he had an offer of the place of Richmond Herald, and though in earlier life the situation might have been acceptable, it was then refused as incompatible with his established professional connections and future prospects in his native county. On his father's death, in 1790, he retired altogether from the pursuit of the law, and chiefly devoted the leisure of his remaining years in forwarding his favourite scheme of a county history of Durham. A great part of the materials of Hutchinson's valuable work, were drawn from the stores preserved at Blackwell Grange.—*Nichol's Lit. Anec.*

1800 (June 4).—Died, in the streets in Newcastle, William Barron, an eccentric, well known for many years by the name of "*Billy Pea-pudding*."—*Rocal Rec.*

June 8.—A person named Blenkinsop, a joiner of Newcastle, was observed by a woman to ascend the railing which surrounded the shaft of Lawson's main colliery at Byker, near Newcastle, and to precipitate himself feet foremost into it, having previously thrown down his hat. She instantly gave the alarm, and on proper persons descending the pit, the body was found in a shockingly mangled condition by a fall of more than one hundred and thirty-seven fathoms. The following is a copy of a letter found in his pocket addressed to his wife:—"My dear Mary, I hope that God Almighty will so order things, that you will be better without than with your unhappy, unfortunate, and affectionate husband, Thomas Blenkinsop." For some

weeks before, he had shewn strong symptoms of a disordered mind.
Local Papers.

1800 (June 14).—A man named Wilkinson, a mariner of Lynn, had recourse to begging in Newcastle, and amongst other houses came to that of one Moffatt, a person who took care of horses in Pilgrim-street, Newcastle, where the usual application was made; the husband was not at home, but Mrs. Moffatt gave him some bread and cheese and small beer; she then presented him with a hatchet, telling him that she in turn had one request to make, which was, that having been long plagued with her fingers, he would be so kind as to cut them off with that hatchet, laying both hands at the same time upon the table for the purpose. The astonished mendicant drew back and knew not what to do. She however persisted in her demand, he at length was monster enough to strike a blow at her hands with the hatchet, by which three fingers of one hand and two of the other were cut off, and another much injured. The woman was occasionally subject to fits of insanity.—*Ibid.*

June 16.—Died, at Mill-green, near Ravensworth, Mary Brown, aged 100 years.—*Ibid.*

July 13.—Died, in All Saints' poor-house, Newcastle, William Thompson, an eccentric, well known by the name of "*Traveller Billy*." He was noted for his numerous gormandizing exploits, and his death was occasioned by endeavouring to swallow a shilling, which he feared would be taken from him.—*Ibid.*

July 21.—A horse attached to a gig took fright near the Carpenters' tower, Newcastle, and set off at full gallop down the narrow and very steep passage, called St. James'-lane, which leads from that place to Pandon-bank. The owner was thrown out, and much bruised, and the gig was dashed to pieces. The horse sprang over the wall into Pandon-bank, fell on his feet, and continued his career up the street into the fields, where he was taken uninjured.—*Ibid.*

July 26.—Died, in the city of Durham, Mr. John Farrer, aged 102 years.—*Ibid.*

August 10.—Died, at Dissington, Ann Wilson, aged 101 years. She not only retained all her faculties to the last, but worked hay that year, and did a variety of domestic employments.—*Ibid.*

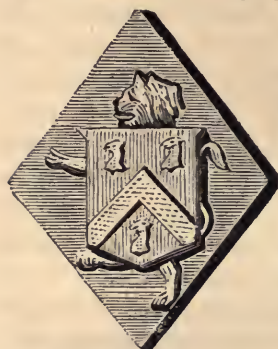
August 25.—Died, at a very advanced age, Mrs. Montague, relict of Edward Montague, esq., of Denton-hall, in the county of Northumberland, grandson to the first earl of Sandwich. She was the daughter of Matthew Robinson, esq., of West Layton, in Yorkshire, and of Horton, in Kent. Mrs. Montague was an excellent scholar, and possessed of a sound judgment and refined taste. Her '*Essay on the Writings and Genius of Shakspeare*,' in answer to the frivo-



DENTON HALL, NORTHUMBERLAND.

lous objections of Voltaire, must always rank with the best illustrations of the transcendant powers of our great English poets. It is not an elaborate exposition of obscure passages, but a comprehensive survey of the sublimity of his genius, of his profound knowledge of human nature, and of the wonderful resources of his imagination. This essay is, we believe, the only work of which Mrs. Montague publicly avowed herself to be the author; but it is well known that she assisted the first lord Lyttleton, in the composition of his ‘Dialogues of the Dead,’ and some of the best of those dialogues, by his lordship’s own acknowledgement, were the effects of her pen. Lord Lyttleton was very much attached to her; and if he had been free from matrimonial connections, she might have commanded his title and fortune. Mrs. Montague, however, it was imagined, was attached to Pulteney, the famous earl of Bath. She accompanied this nobleman and his lady on a tour through Germany. Mrs. Montague particularly excelled in epistolary composition; and her letters, in point of learning, judgment, and elegance, far exceed those of her namesake, lady Mary Wortley Montague, even supposing that the latter was really the author of the letters attributed to her, which, however, have long been known to be in a great measure fictitious. Mrs. Montague was a near relative of the celebrated Dr. Conyers Middleton, to whose care she devolved in early life, and who superintended her education with parental fondness. It is said that she made so early a display of her tendency to literature, that she had transcribed the whole of the Spectator before she was *eight* years old. Incredible as this story seems to be it has been attested by the best authority, and was always solemnly affirmed by Dr. Monsey, physician of Chelsea college, a particular friend of Dr. Middleton, and of Mrs. Montague. The epistolary correspondence that took place

between Dr. Monsey and Mrs. Montague, during her tour in Germany, and indeed throughout the whole of their intercourse for upward of thirty years, affords proof of uncommon talents, original humour, and acute observation. Dr. Johnson said of Mrs. Montague, that 'she did not make a trade of her wit; but she was a very extraordinary woman; she had a constant stream of conversation, and it was always impregnated; it had always meaning.'—*Univ. Mag.*



1800 (Sep. 28).—Died, at her house, in Northumberland-street, Newcastle, aged 78 years, Mrs. Pricilla Atlee, a widow lady of ample fortune, great part of which she expended in acts of piety and charity. Her remains were interred at All Saints' church; they were followed by thirteen coaches, and embalmed by the tears of the poor whom her benevolence had clothed and fed.—*Local Papers.*

At this period a portion of the foundation of the Roman wall was taken up at Byker-hill, for the purpose of repairing the highways.—*Mon. Mag.*

The following is a list of mayors and sheriffs of Newcastle, from the year 1800.—

MAYORS.

1800 Archibald Reed,
1801 Joseph Forster,
1802 Thomas Clennell,
1803 Thomas Smith,
1804 Richard Clayton,
1805 Henry Cramlington,
1806 Archibald Reed,
1807 Anthony Hood,
1808 Joseph Forster,
1809 Isaac Cookson, jun.,
1810 Thomas Burdon,
1811 George Forster,
1812 Robert Clayton,
1813 Thomas Smith,
1814 Benjamin Sorsbie,
1815 Henry Cramlington,
1816 Sir Thomas Burdon,
1817 Robert Clayton,

SHERIFFS.

Aubone Surtees, jun.
{ Matthew Hedley.
{ Isaac Cookson, jun.
Dixon Brown.
Thomas Cookson.
Benjamin Sorsbie.
Nathaniel John Winch.
John Cookson.
Thomas Burdon.
{ Thomas Burdon, 2nd time.
{ Benj. Sorsbie. 2nd time.
{ George Shadforth.
Job James Bulman.
William Smoult Temple.
Thomas Burdon, jun.
Thomas Anderson.
Thomas Smith, jun.
Richard Brewster.
Ralph Naters.
Thomas Logan.
William Clayton.

MAYORS.

1818 Joseph Forster,
 1819 Archibald Reed,
 1820 George Forster,
 1821 Aubone Surtees,
 1822 Robert Bell,
 1823 William Wright,
 1824 Henry Cramlington,
 1825 George Forster,
 1826 Archibald Reed,
 1827 Benjamin Sorsbie,
 1828 Robert Bell,
 1829 George Shadforth,
 1830 Archibald Reed,
 1831 Archibald Reed,
 1832 John Brandling,
 1833 Henry Bell,
 1834 Jno. Lionel Hood,

SHERIFFS.

Henry Clayton.
 Nicholas Naters.
 John Anderson, jun.
 Alfred Hall.
 Edward Johnson. |
 Edward John Jackson.
 George Shadforth, 2nd time.
 John Lionel Hood.
 Alfred Hall, 2nd time.
 Edward Dale.
 John Brandling.
 Henry Reed.
 William Smith.
 Wm. Aubone Surtees.
 Henry Reed.
 Geo. Clayton Atkinson.
 John Mellor Chapman.

Mr. Hood continued in office until the first election of mayor under the Municipal Reform Act.



1800 (Sep. 30).—Died at Benwell, in the ninetieth year of his age, greatly respected, Aubone Surtees,* esq., banker, and father of the corporation of Newcastle, and receiver general of the land tax for the counties of Northumberland and Durham.† Mr. Surtees was sheriff of Newcastle in the memorable year 1744-5,‡ and mayor in 1761 and 1770. He was the son of Edward Surtees, esq. of Hedley-woodhead, by his wife, Frances, daughter and co-heir of William Aubone, esq., alderman of Newcastle, to whom he had been married at Ovingham, 9th April, 1705. This

* The accompanying arms of Surtees, are copied from a stone till recently in the front of a house in the upper part of the market-place in Durham, occupied formerly by Robert Surtees, the alderman of Durham in 1586-90-99, and now by Mr. Shields. This stone has been lately removed by Mr. Shields in rebuilding the house, but it has been let into the wall in the back part of the building, where it now remains.

† By his will dated 3rd Dec., 1783, he appointed his eldest son William Surtees and his "son-in-law, John Scott, esq.," his executors; the latter had however in the mean time arrived at the dignities of Baron Eldon and Chief Justice of the King's Bench.

‡ In a long list of names, appended to a loyal manifesto of the inhabitants of Newcastle, volunteering to take arms, or provide substitutes for the defence of the town, dated Sep. 1745, the following seven appear first: M. Ridley, Nath. Clayton, Ed. Collingwood, Ralph Sowerby, Cuthbert Smith, Aubone Surtees, and Geo. Cuthbertson. Brand's Newcastle, ii. p. 524.

William Aubone, whose name is occasionally spelt Albany, was sheriff of Newcastle in 1679, and mayor in 1684. His will was dated 27th September, 1700, and proved 13th May 1702. He had five daughters and co-heirs: namely, Elizabeth, Jane, Margaret, Frances, and Phillis. Elizabeth married William Fetherstonhaugh, esq., of Stanley and Branspeth, and had a daughter Mary, an heiress, who married first Thomas Wilkinson, esq., of Durham, and gave to the church of St. Mary-le-Bow there, a large silver flaggon, with this inscription on it, "The gift of Elizabeth, daughter of William Aubone, esq., and relict of William Fetherstonhalgh, to her grandchild Mary Wilkinson, and given to the Bow church by Mary Wilkinson, her mother, Anno Dom. 1734." Both Mary Wilkinson the grandchild (who was an only child), and Thomas Wilkinson her father were then dead; and Mary Wilkinson the mother remarried shortly afterwards, sir William Williamson, bart., but had no other issue. She was buried at Branspeth. Of the remaining four daughters of Mr. Aubone, Jane married 13th July, 1699, at All Saints', John Greenwell, esq., a merchant of Newcastle; Frances married Edward Surtees, esq., as stated before; and Phillis, whose marriage licence is dated 5th Feb. 1707, married Robert Greenwell, esq., and was great grandmother of General sir Leonard Greenwell, K. C. B. —*Newcastle Courant. Wills of Wm. Aubone, and Aubone Surtees. Surtees's Dur. Local Registers.*

1800 (Oct. 7).—Died, at Seaton Delaval, in Northumberland, the countess of Tyreconnell, after an illness of many months. She was the only child of lord Delaval.—*Local Papers.*

Tanfield common, Durham, containing 1040 acres, was divided by act of parliament.—*Surtees.*

The grand stand on the Town-moor, at Newcastle, was this year built.—*Mackenzie.*

This year, as some workmen were levelling a barrow, about a quarter of a mile north of Bowsden, in the parish of Lowick, in Northumberland, they found two urns inverted upon broad flags, and containing bones, which appeared to have been partially burnt. Previous to this another funeral urn was turned up by the plough at Bowsdon Hollins.—*Ibid.*

1801 (Jan. 1).—The Newcastle volunteers were drawn up on the Sandhill, and fired three most excellent volleys in honour of the legislative union between this country and Ireland. On this occasion, the corps, for the first time, mounted the union bearings in their colours, and marched along the bridge to the county of Durham, where, in the presence of the Gateshead volunteers, they expressed their resolution to be UNITED. A similar celebration took place on the part of

the armed association. The colours of all the ships at the quay were hoisted.—*Local Papers.*

1801 (Jan. 24).—A fire broke out in the printing-office occupied by Mr. John Taylor, in Church-street, Berwick, which raged with such violence, that the building (partly covered with thatch) was entirely destroyed, together with the stock and working implements. The fire broke out in a room used for drying printed paper. The loss was estimated at £1000.—*Ibid.*

February 5.—Died, at Newcastle, Margaret Robson, of the Flesh Market, at the advanced age of 103 ; who, except a weakness in the eyesight, retained her faculties unimpaired, and was never known to have been afflicted with sickness till that which terminated her protracted existence.—*Ibid.*

February 14.—Two soldiers of the 3rd Lancashire militia on furlough, travelling between Durham and Auckland, were so fatigued and distressed by the inclemency of the weather, that one of them on entering a public-house near Butcher-row, and warming himself by the fire, fell backwards from his chair and expired ; the other, who was somewhat forward, was found dead under the park wall near Auckland, by a butcher going to Durham market.—*Ibid.*

This month, a dreadful hurricane was experienced at Hexham : many houses were unroofed, and chimneys blown down, both in the town and neighbourhood. One house in particular, occupied by Mr. Newton, a saddler, was materially damaged ; a stack of chimnies falling on the roof, penetrated into his bed-chamber, but fortunately he escaped unhurt. The house was completely unroofed, and the floorings broken to pieces.—*Mon. Mag.*

March 14.—Died, in the city of Durham, Mrs. Eleanor Crowe, aged 103 years.—*Ibid.*

March 26.—The body of an old man, recognized to be that of an old mendicant, and his dog, were found floating in the river Tyne, opposite to the quay, Newcastle. They had been missing for more than a month, and were, dead, as they had lived, attached to each other ; the cord by which the blind man had been led by his four-footed friend being wrapped about his wrist.—*Local Papers.*

March 27.—A tumult took place in the corn market at Sunderland, in consequence of the price of wheat, 40s. being demanded by one of the dealers for a boll of that grain. The populace immediately raked the kennels for dirt, with which they besmeared the farmer, who was glad to retreat to the Fountain inn, the windows of which house were assailed with stones and brick-bats, as were also those of the Half moon and Queen's head. Beside the damage sustained in the brittle materials of the houses attacked, a quantity of corn was madly trod-

den under foot, and several of the farmers' carts were hurried into the Wear, one of which was seen floating to the sea the next morning. A justice of the peace, with a few constables, seized upon one of the insurgents, and committed him to the *Cage*, but he was soon liberated by a body of the rioters. Things continued thus till about nine o'clock, when the justice, with an increased body of constables, again made their appearance, and read the riot act on the steps of the George inn, by candle-light, but with so little success, that it was deemed prudent to plant a military guard round his house during the night. In the midst of the affray, a party of the Lancashire militia was called out; they loaded their muskets, but received no orders to fire.—*Local Papers*.

1801 (March 31).—*Wonderful News!!!* The London Courier of this day, and the Edinburgh Courant of April the 2nd, contained accounts of the fall of the steeples of St. Nicholas and All Saints' churches in Newcastle. The paragraph in the Courier was given in the form of an extract of a letter, as follows:—"Newcastle, March 29. I seize the first opportunity to relate to you the unexpected destruction of the spire of St. Nicholas' church in this town, which, for elegance of design, lightness, and durability, had long been classed among the first productions of art in the north. Yesterday evening, about eight o'clock (after experiencing a fine day), we had a smart shower of rain, attended with a strong southerly wind which increased considerably; at a little before nine, some stones fell from the steeple, one of which unfortunately alighted upon a young woman, and bruised her so desperately that her life is in danger. It still continuing to blow strong, fears were entertained for the safety of the steeple; the butchers, who expose their meat for sale near the church, were very alert in removing it; the impending danger was swiftly spread around. I, too, hearing of the dreadful alarm, was repairing to view the cause of it, when I had scarcely left the door, when the upper part of the steeple, and as low as the belfry, was removed from its long wonted situation, covering at some distance from its base, on the north side (called the Flesh-market), with ruins. The most painful part of the catastrophe is, that I, among others, have to lament the loss of seven of our fellow-creatures, who have fallen victims to their too ardent desire of saving their property; four of them were butchers, one of them belonged to Morpeth; five more persons were severely hurt, but I trust not dangerously. A public-house near to the church was nearly levelled with the ground, and several other buildings were materially damaged. It is much to be feared that some more persons have lost their lives, whose curiosity had led them to the spot, as (while I write) some are yet missing. The confusion this disastrous affair has occasioned, I

am at a loss to describe ; numbers of the inhabitants are repairing to view the ruins. The fall of this elegant remains of ancient architecture, which was 194 feet in height, and adorned with thirteen spires, has been attributed to various causes." The *Edinburgh Courant* of April the 2nd, contained an account of the fall of All Saints' steeple in Newcastle, as follows :—" Newcastle, March 27. The spire of that modern-built church, called All Saints, suddenly fell to the ground,



STEEPLE OF ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH.

on the south side, at about half-past 5 o'clock this morning. Happily no lives were lost. The cause of this accident is generally attributed to the impropriety of building the spire so high, it being known, that the tower on which it was built had considerably shrunk." It is only necessary to say, that they were ingenious fabrications, intended for the first of April. The steeples are still standing, and likely to do so.—*Local Rec.*

1801 (April 16).—The *Gazette* of this day confirmed the elevation of lord Eldon to the important office of lord high chancellor of Great Britain. The intelligence was received by his fellow townsmen in Newcastle with the most distinguished marks of respect. The bells

in all the churches in that town and Gateshead continued ringing from the arrival of the mail till late in the evening, and numerous groups of his lordship's relatives and friends were formed in various parts of the neighbourhood to celebrate the event.—*Local Rec.*

1801 (April 19).—Died at Walker, near Newcastle, aged 36, Mr. Thomas Barnes, principal viewer and agent at Walker colliery. He was a man of very superior abilities in his profession. A most ingenious and yet simple combination of machinery, for the purpose of regulating the conveyance of waggons, laden with coals, down an inclined plane, from Benwell colliery, on the north side of the Tyne, to the staith at the border of the river, and for bringing up the waggons, when unloaded, by the same power that resisted its projectile impetus in the descent, was, in the year 1798, perfected and brought into use by Mr. Barnes. His remains lie interred in Long Benton churchyard, where a table monument is erected to his memory.—*Ibid.*

April 21.—The decisive victory obtained over the Danish fleet and batteries, by lord Nelson, was celebrated at Newcastle and all the neighbouring towns.—*Local Papers.*

May 2.—About four o'clock on the morning, the iron slitting-mill of Messrs. Hawks and co., near Gateshead, was discovered to be on fire, but by the prompt exertions of the company's workmen, who lived upon the spot, it was readily extinguished.—*Ibid.*

May 6.—The foundation-stone of the new building for the Sunderland Subscription Library was laid by Dr. Brown, who deposited an appropriate inscription, in the presence of several members of the institution. May 11th, 1802, it was opened, when an elegant breakfast and ball were given by the subscribers to a great number of ladies and gentlemen. The gentleman afterwards dined at the Bridge inn.—*Ibid.*

May 7.—Four prisoners escaped from the gaol at Morpeth.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

May 21.—A terrible fire broke out in the village of Harbottle, Northumberland, owing to a foul chimney. Nine cottages and four out-houses were unfortunately destroyed by this conflagration, the progress of which there was no means of stopping, till the poor inhabitants lost nearly the whole of their furniture and other effects.—*Local Papers.*

June 26.—The population returns for Durham and Northumberland were as follow:—

County of Durham.....	160,361
———— Northumberland.....	157,101
———— Newcastle.....	28,366
Parish of Gateshead.....	8,597



TYNE BRIDGE (1800).

1801 (June 30).—The alterations for improving and widening the bridge over the river Tyne, at Newcastle, were begun under the management of the late David Stephenson, architect. It was a bold and successful undertaking.—*Local Papers*.

July 29.—The North York militia marched from Newcastle, and encamped on the coast near Whitburn, in the county of Durham. The camp broke up on the 13th, of October.—*Ibid*.

August 12.—Found dead in his bed, at his lodgings in New-court, Moor-lane, Cripplegate, Mr. Thomas Hastings, long known as an itinerant bookseller and pamphleteer. He was a native of the bishoprick of Durham, and worked for a while as a carpenter in the new buildings at Mary-la-Bonne. Mr. Fox's memorable election for Westminster, when the support of the Devonshire and Portland families awakened every interest in his favour, gave Mr. H. an opportunity to exert himself in the popular cause, and he produced a quarto pamphlet, intituled "The wars of Westminster." This was followed by others in the style of Oriental apologues, and he got considerable sums by hawking them about the town. From this period it is believed he wrought no more at his trade. For many years he had been in the habit of publishing, in different newspapers, on the 12th of August, a voluntary ode on the prince of Wales' birth-day, for which he annually received some small emolument at Carleton-house; but this he had discontinued some time by order. His last publications were, "The Devil in London," 12mo, and "The Regal Rambler, or Lucifer's Travels," 8vo. He was a constant attendant

on the popular Sunday orators; and in his habit very much adorned a clerical appearance. His travelling name was *Dr. Green*; and he was near sixty years of age.—*Gent's Mag.*

1801 (Aug. 19).—As a cartman of Newcastle was employed with four horses in drawing some heavy timber ashore, near the end of Hillgate Gateshead, he threw a brick at the foremost animal to hasten his speed. This cruel act had, however, the contrary effect, for the brick striking the poor animal on the head, he fell back stunned and almost lifeless, upon his fellow-labourers, and being all chained together, a terrible struggle in deep water ensued, which ended not till the four horses were drowned.—*Local Papers.*

September 5.—Two postilions in the service of Mr. Maddocks, of Wooler Haugh-head, were, on the afternoon of this day, employed with four horses in conveying a gentleman's carriage, in which were himself and family, to Holy Island. About nine o'clock in the evening, the postilions set out on their return homewards, with their horses, and shortly after a thick fog came on. Strong apprehensions were in consequence entertained by the islanders for their safety, which, next morning, were found too fatally verified; for soon after day-light, the bodies of the two unfortunate men, and one of the horses, were discovered lifeless on the sands. Another horse, which by some means survived, stood motionless beside its dead companion. The remaining two horses were supposed to have been buried in a quick-sand, many of which abound in this dangerous passage.—*Ibid.*

September 23.—The foundation-stone of the additional building to the Infirmary at Newcastle, was laid by sir M. W. Ridley, bart., one of the vice-presidents of the charity, as representative of his grace the duke of Northumberland, the senior president, in the presence of a great concourse of spectators. Previous to the ceremony of laying the stone, the worthy baronet addressed the company assembled, in a neat speech, in which he pointed out the essential service rendered to numerous unfortunate members of society by this noble institution, and cordially recommended its most ample support. He paid a just tribute of applause to the skill and humanity of the physicians and surgeons attached to the charity, and to the other inferior agents in this great business of benevolence. Sir Matthew concluded by informing his auditory, that the duke of Northumberland, to his other munificent respect for the Infirmary, had added ten guineas, as a present to the workmen employed in the proposed extension. A plate with an inscription was deposited in the stone. The additional building is of brick, the original of stone.—*Ibid.*

October 2.—A line of keels was moored across the river Tyne near Clifford's Fort, and deals laid across them from shore to shore.

After carefully examining this extraordinary highway, lord Mulgrave, accompanied by general Murray, major Heron, and other officers, rode over from the county of Durham to Northumberland. Soon after, lord Mulgrave marched the first regiment of royal Lancashire militia (accompanied by their field pieces and ammunition waggons) from Tynemouth barracks over this bridge to the Herd Sands, when an action took place against a supposed enemy; at the same time several shells were fired from a battery on the north side, which had a fine effect. The troops were then marched back again. The adjacent banks and hills were covered with spectators to witness this novel sight.—*Local Papers.*

1801 (Oct. 15).—On the signing of the preliminaries of peace between Great Britain and the French Republic, a general illumination took place in Newcastle and Gateshead, when many loyal and curious devices in transparency, &c., were exhibited.—*Ibid.*

October 26.—About midnight, some incendiary set fire to the stacks in a yard belonging to Messrs. Reed, of Old Town, in the parish of Elsdon, Northumberland, by which diabolical act, seven corn stacks and one hay stack were totally consumed.—*Ibid.*

November 19.—John Scott, convicted of sheep stealing from Mr. S. Dodd, was executed at Morpeth, pursuant to his sentence.—*Ibid.*

December 23.—Died, at Low Heaton, near Newcastle, Mr. Thomas Thompson, farmer. Though blind from his infancy, he was allowed to be one of the best judges of cattle in that neighbourhood; and, amongst other singular performances, has been known to make a wheel-barrow complete.—*Ibid.*

December.—About the middle of this month, a gentleman was attacked on the waggon-way, near the Windmill-hills, by three footpads, but escaped by his horse taking fright, and galloping off. It is remarkable, that the horse in his fright leaped down a precipice near nine feet high, without receiving the least injury, and ran, with the utmost speed, for upwards of three miles, before the gentleman was able to stop him.—*Newcc. Adv.*

This month, died at Longhorsley, Mr. John Buddler, farmer, aged 101 years.—*Local Papers.*

This year, Framwellgate and Brasside Moors, and Witton Gilbert Common (2,400 acres), all in the county of Durham, were divided. The late bishop (Barrington) had one sixteenth of the soil allotted, and all the mines. This venerable prelate appropriated one third of his whole allotment to the founding of schools within the county of Durham.—*Surtees.*

This year, the bridge spanning the rivulet a few yards to the north of Long Benton church, on the road to Killingworth was built at the

expencc of admiral Roddam of Roddam, which event is recorded on the key stone of the arch. In rainy weather this rivulet was sometimes difficult of passage, and the bridge has been of great use. It is beautifully embowered with trees which line the side of the brook for some distance.—*MS. Col.*

1801.—Blackburn Fell, in the county of Durham, containing by estimation 2009 acres, was divided by act of parliament.—*Surtees.*

1802 (Jan. 7).—Between twelve and one o'clock, part of the wall, to the length of sixty or seventy feet, of All Saints' church-yard, Newcastle, next to Silver-street, and near the middle thereof, fell down with a tremendous crash, to the unspeakable terror of the inhabitants of the houses opposite, many of whom thought it had been an earthquake from the effects it occasioned. The lower part of one house, with the window and door were completely broken in, and several houses above and below the same were materially injured. This wall had long been supposed to be in a dangerous state, having perceptibly leaned and shrunk from the church-yard, evidently being pressed by an uncommon weight of soil on that side, while there was no support at all on the other towards the street, where it was near twenty feet high; it was likewise composed of massy stones, which in their fall were accompanied by a great body of earth from the side of the bank, opening to view several coffins, and innumerable quantities of human bones. It was a fortunate circumstance that the above accident took place at a late hour of the night. The ruins presented a very awful appearance.—*Mon. Mag.*

February.—Died, at Whitworth, Mr. Taylor, commonly known by the name of the Whitworth Doctor, and whose celebrity (it is well known) was so great as to procure him the honour of attending the late bishop of Durham, brother to lord Thurlow. The history of this man and his brother, who was his partner, is worthy of notice. By profession they were farriers, and to the last, if both a two legged and a four legged patient were presented, at the same time, the doctor always preferred the four legged one. Partly from singularity of manners and partly from success in curing, the practice of the two brothers was immense, as may be well imagined from the orders they gave to the druggist; they dealt principally with Embank and Walls, of York, and a ton of Glauber's salts, with other articles in proportion, was their usual order. On a Sunday morning the doctor used to bleed gratis. The patients were seated, often to the number of a hundred, on benches round a room, where troughs were placed to receive the blood. One of the doctors then went and tied up the arm of each patient, and was immediately followed by the other, who opened the vein. So singular a scene may be much easier conceived

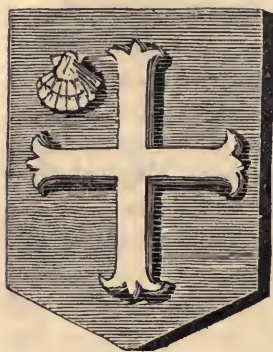
than described. In their medical practice, the nice formality of scales and weights was totally unknown; all was *rule of thumb*. An example of this practice may serve to elucidate their claim to celebrity. Being sent for to a patient, who was in the last stage of a consumption, the learned Dr. prescribed *a leg of mutton to be boiled, secundum artem*, into a very strong broth, a quart of which was to be drank at proper intervals. What might have been the success of such a medicament, is difficult to say, as the patient died before the first dose was got down. As bone-setters, and likewise in the treatment of scrophulous and cutaneous disorders, they were remarkably skilful, and perhaps to their real merit in this, and the cheapness of their medicines, they were chiefly indebted for their great local fame.—*Mon. Mag.*

1802 (February).—A medallion was presented to Mr. H. Greathead, of South Shields, by the Royal Humane Society for his very ingenious and important improvement on boats, for the preservation of the lives of shipwrecked mariners and passengers. The Society of Arts, also presented to the same gentleman, their gold medal, accompanied with a purse of fifty guineas, as a testimony of the sense they entertain of the extraordinary benefits which have resulted to the country from his truly useful invention.—*Ibid.*

May 4.—Being the day appointed by the magistrates of Newcastle, for proclaiming the peace between Great Britain and the French Republic, the morning was ushered in by the ringing of bells, which continued at intervals during the day. At noon the Newcastle volunteers, the Armed association, and the Gateshead volunteers, with their respective bands, were under arms, on the Sandhill, to receive the members of the corporation with the regalia, attended by the officers of the police, eighteen free porters, carrying each an ancient battle axe, sixteen with javelins, and sixteen with halberts. The civil authorities were surrounded by the military to keep of the crowd, and the sound of trumpets announced that his majesty's proclamation was about to be read. This was done by Mr. Richard Hill, the town-marshal; the town sword (which had been borne unsheathed) was now sheathed, after which the procession moved to the west end of Mosley-street, and thence to the White Cross in Newgate-street, at each of which places the proclamation was read.—*Local Papers.*

June 1.—On this day was published in Newcastle, by Mr. John Mitchell, the first number of the Tyne Mercury and Northumberland and Durham Gazette. It is at present published by his son and successor, Mr. William Andrew Mitchell, the editor.—*Local Rec.*

June 15.—The Newcastle Loyal Volunteers, commanded by col. Clennell, were disembodied.—*J. Bell's Col.*



1802 (June 29).—Died, at his house in Northumberland-street, Newcastle, Charles Brandling, esq., of Gosforth, high sheriff of Northumberland in 1781, and representative in parliament for Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 1784, 1790, and 1796. He married, in 1756, Elizabeth, daughter and heir of John Thompson, esq., of Shotton, county palatine. In 1797, Mr. Brandling resigned his seat in parliament, and was succeeded by his son Charles John Brandling, esq.—

Mackenzie's Northd., &c.

The commencement of the demolition of Pilgrim-street Gate, part of the town wall of Newcastle, took place on the 30th of June this year. It had been long complained of; frequent instances having occurred, where it was found necessary to take off part of the loading of a waggon, before a passage through the gate could be effected. A cannon ball was found in the wall, weighing more than twenty-two pounds; allowing for waste, this had, in all probability, been a twenty-four pounder, and thrown during the siege of the town in 1644. In 1659, and again in 1716, this gate was repaired and beautified at the expense of the company of Joiners, whose hall or meeting-room was above the gate-way. On the night of the 1st of August, 1714, the gate was illuminated, in honour of the accession of George I. when the company spent in candles eighteen-pence. In August 1726, the meeting-room was discovered to be on fire; but immediate attendance was given by the members of the company, and



PILGRIM STREET GATE, SOUTH FRONT (1800).

other persons, who together, succeeded in extinguishing the flames, without any material injury having been effected. In 1771 convenient foot passages were opened on each side of the archway.—*Records of the Joiners' Comp. &c.*

1802 (June).—The French emigrant clergy, who had been resident in Newcastle and its neighbourhood, since October 1796, took their departure for their own country. They left behind them a most grateful address to their benefactors, written in their native language.—*Local Papers.*

July 22.—Died, in Hillgate, Gateshead, Alice Carr, aged 102 years.—*Ibid.*

July 27.—The armed association of Newcastle, commanded by sir M. W. Ridley, bart., were disbanded.—*J. Bell's Col.*



July.—A pair of Sandwich Terns, male and female were shot on the Farn Islands, on the coast of Northumberland. These birds, as well as specimens of nearly the whole of the different kinds which breed on the Farn Isles, were, after much trouble and risk, shot there,

expressly for the use of Bewick in the illustration of his work on British Birds, by major Shore, and lieutenant Kenny Forster Gibson, of the 4th Dragoons.—*Bewick.*

August 23.—John Carleton, was executed at Durham, for firing a loaded pistol at Mr. Thomas Greenwell, grocer, in Gateshead, whose warehouses he and other accomplices were attempting forcibly to enter. During Carleton's trial, the prisoner's council contended that there was not an intention to murder, as there was not a ball in the pistol; a bullet, however, was found in a niche in the wall of the shop, the week after his execution.—*J. Bell's Col.*

September 2.—A life-boat, built by Mr. Greathead, of South Shields, arrived at Bamborough castle, under the care of the Mermaid cutter, captain Smith, and was received with a discharge of cannon from the battery, and the greatest joy of the people.—*Local Papers.*

September 3.—The owners of Percy Main colliery, accompanied by a great number of the neighbouring gentlemen, and the workmen belonging to the colliery, walked in procession with the first waggon-load of coals from the winning to the staith at Whitehill point upon the river Tyne. On their arrival at the staith, the waggon was taken to the spout, where a ship was in readiness to receive the coal, into which they were immediately discharged. At the instant of the coal

being delivered, a salute of artillery was fired, and the band played "*The Keel Row*." The company then formed a circle, when "Success to Percy Main" was drunk with three times three cheers. The procession then returned to the winning, where a plentiful dinner was prepared, which the company, consisting of 150 gentlemen, sat down to, at one table, under a covering erected for the purpose. The workmen were also plentifully regaled with beef and plum pudding, and they amused themselves with music and dancing till a late hour.—*Ibid*.

1802 (Nov. 15).—About eleven o'clock at night, an alarming fire was discovered to have broken out in the steam-engine and boring mill, at the extensive iron works of Messrs. Hawks and Co., near Gateshead. From the violence of the flames, great fears were entertained that the whole premises would have been consumed, but from the calmness of the evening, and the strenuous exertions of the firemen, aided by the public, their ravages were confined to the building first attacked.—*Local Papers*.

November 16.—The Literary and Philosophical society of Newcastle, instituted a perpetual lectureship on Natural and Experimental Philosophy, and appointed the rev. William Turner, lecturer, to the endowment of which, the duke of Northumberland subscribed £200., and the bishop of Durham £100. The introductory lecture was delivered on the above day.—*Ibid*.

This month, died at Durham, in the 88th year of his age, Mr. Robert Harrison, a profound mathematician. From his knowledge in mathematics, he was appointed, Jan. the 14th, 1757, master of the Trinity-house school in Newcastle, where he also took private pupils; of whom, among others of great respectability, were the late earl of Eldon, and his brother, lord Stowell. He was acquainted with almost every known language, and possessed a most acute memory. Having resigned his situation at Newcastle, he retired to Durham, where he spent the remainder of his life. Mr. Harrison is described as dressing very neat, a dark blue coat without a collar, but not exactly a century old in fashion. When he walked out, he wore a triangular hat, and carried a cane with a large amber head to it. He suffered his beard to grow for some time before his death. He was generally known in Durham and Newcastle, by the denomination of *Philosopher Harrison*, which he probably derived from his having in conjunction with Mr. Isaac Thompson, given lectures on Natural and Experimental Philosophy.—*Local Rec*.

December 7.—About twelve o'clock at night, a fire broke out in the premises at the Ouseburn, near Newcastle, occupied as a pottery by Messrs. Yellowley and Co., which entirely consumed the same, and the whole of the stock on hand.—*Ibid*.

1803.—This year a dispensary was established at North Shields under the patronage of his grace the duke of Northumberland. It is supported by bequests, donations and annual subscriptions.—*Ibid.*

Several curious brass spear heads were this year found in making a ditch, near Cheeseburn grange, in Northumberland.—*Mackenzie.*

The register of births and baptisms belonging to Clavering-place chapel (United Associate Synod), Newcastle-upon-Tyne, commences in 1802.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

Jan. 4.—Died, in Union-street, Newcastle, aged 77, Mr. Luke Long, of eccentric memory; better known to his fellow townsmen by the appellation of Dr. Long. At an early period of his life, he was employed as a surgeon or a surgeon's mate, in different ships on the coast of Africa; and hence his *exploits, adventures, and hair-breadth escapes*, became, ever after, during life, the common topics of his, if not prolix, yet certainly *unlaconic*, conversation, and, particularly so, on convivial occasions. Having early acquired, by happily copying the sages of his profession, a sort of dignified countenance, and a solemn, pompous demeanour, accompanied with a venerable mode of address, he was frequently admitted to the company of men much above his own rank and station in life; and being a jovial member of the festive board, it was no uncommon thing to see him placed in a respectable seat at corporation dinners, and other distinguished festivals. The flashes of his wit, on these occasions, being never spoiled with too much polishing, were happily calculated to create the animated pun, and by exciting merriment, "to set the table in a roar." His *metrical* compositions, which, to say the truth, were never too much loaded with erudition, will, doubtless, be long remembered by visitors at the mansion-house, as samples of the doctor's humour; and the songs which were prepared for such occasions, and sung by him with wonderful animation, and with no small share of sapient glee, will, no doubt, be quoted as proofs of his *good-natured genius*. In the early part of his life, after he became stationary in Newcastle, he was for some time employed as an apothecary in the town; but the various improvements that had taken place in the science having greatly outrun his former studies and early acquirements, the business gradually dwindled into insignificance, and he was afterwards obliged to stock his shop with other articles beside those of Daffy's elixir, Anderson's pills, &c. The singular medley he thus associated, would form a curious catalogue, containing, like the village barber's shop:

"Pomatum pots, rollers, and musty perfumes,
Remnants of stumps, a broken case of lancets;
Leaches and genuine corn-salve, made a shew."

Beside a good assortment of ribbons, tapes, blacking-balls and brushes. The doctor had something to relate of every person and subject; but every thing new was almost sure to meet his reprehension, and the disappointments and failures of others, which he pretended to have foreseen, the severity of his sarcasms. He had a peculiar fluency in telling stories; and, on the whole we may apply to this eccentric character, the following parody on our great dramatic poet:

“Noting his flippancy, to myself I said,
And if a man did wish to hear a tale,
Secrets of families, or affairs of state,
Here lived an oily tongue would tell it him.” *Mon. Mag.*

1803 (Jan. 8, 9, 10).—There was a tremendous storm, with the wind at east, which did a great deal of damage to the shipping on the coast of Durham and Northumberland.—*Local Papers.*

February.—Died, at Morpeth, aged 102, Mrs. A. Dixon, inn-keeper.—*Chatto's Col.*

Died, at the Low Lights, North Shields, Mr. Ab. Brown, chimney-sweeper and razor-grinder; in which humble occupations, by management and economy, he was enabled to accumulate the sum of one thousand pounds.—*Ibid.*

February 8.—A subscription library was founded at South Shields, supported by annual subscriptions.—*Surtees*

February.—Died, at Berwick, Margaret Cleghorn, an old woman, who for some years past had been chargeable to the parish. She had made a will, directing in what manner she was to be buried, and bequeathing, in the same, sundry legacies to her friends, but the overseers of the poor immediately seized all her effects, to indemnify the parish for expences. Besides a considerable sum of money she had reserved, a vast wardrobe of clothes, among which were near three hundred night and day caps; the very papers she had got with groceries were all carefully packed up in boxes, which all sold well, as the buyers were in eager expectation of finding some hidden treasures therein.—*Chatto's Col.*

March 13.—Died, at North Shields, Mr. William Morris, shipwright, aged 102 years.—*Local Papers.*

March 14.—An impress by the serjeants at mace and constables, broke out in Newcastle, in consequence of the re-commencement of hostilities by the French.—*Ibid.*

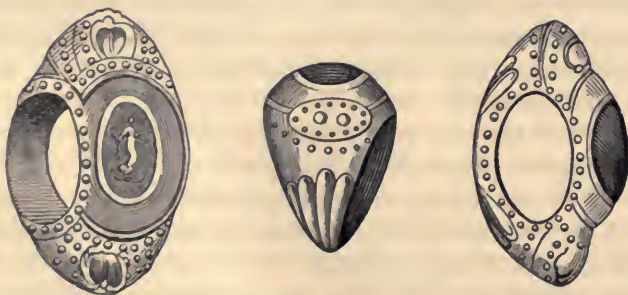
March.—Died, at Birtley, Mr. George Robson, aged 102 years.—*Ibid.*

April.—Died, at Shotton, in the county of Durham, aged upwards of 105 years, Mrs. Christian Wallace. She had resided in the village nearly the whole of the above-mentioned period.—*Gent's Mag.*



1803 (April).—Died, in the Island of Trinidad, Henry Swinburne, esq., youngest son of the late sir John Swinburne, bart., of Capheaton, in Northumberland. This accomplished scholar and celebrated traveller, was educated at Scorton school in Yorkshire; and afterwards studied at Paris, Bourdeaux, and in the Royal Academy at Turin. He made the usual tour in Italy; and, in 1774, travelled with his lady on the Continent, for the express purpose of indulging their taste for antiquities and the fine arts. He spent six years in France, Spain, Italy, and Germany; formed an intimacy with some of the most celebrated literati of those countries, and received some signal marks of esteem from the sovereigns of the courts he visited. On his return to England, he retired to his seat at Hamsterley. The learning and ingenuity of Mr. Swinburne are well known. The warmth and animation of his descriptions discover an imagination highly susceptible of every bounty of nature or art; and, if he had a fault, it was the being too apt to relinquish simplicity for profusion of ornament:—but, from this fault, what traveller is free? He was the first who brought us intimately acquainted with Spain, and the arts and monuments of its ancient inhabitants—*Surtees*.

April 5.—A gold ring was found in harrowing a piece of ground near Halton Chesters. It weighed 8 dwts, 15 grs., was set with a small blue stone slightly injured, and afterwards worn by lady Blackett of Matfen. The following are representations of the different sides of the ring.—*Arch. Æl.*



CHAPTER II.



IED, on the 9th of May 1803, sir Robert Chambers, knt., several years Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Judicature in Bengal. He was born in the year 1737, at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, being the eldest son of Mr. Robert Chambers, a respectable attorney of that town. He was educated at the Free Grammar school there, and afterwards was sent to Oxford, without any other preparation.

He went at an early age, but his abilities soon rendered him conspicuous; and in July, 1754, he was chosen an exhibitioner of Lincoln college. He afterwards became a Fellow of University college, and in January, 1762, he was elected, by the University, Vinerian professor of the Laws of England; a public testimony to his abilities of the most unequivocal nature. In 1766, the earl of Lichfield, then chancellor of Oxford, gave him the appointment of principal of the New Inn Hall; which office he continued to hold through life. He was now advancing honourably in the practice of the Law, and was employed in many remarkable causes, in which his professional abilities were conspicuously evinced. It is a strong proof that his talents were highly estimated at an early period, that in 1768 he was offered the appointment of Attorney-general of Jamaica; this however, he thought proper to decline. His age was then only 31. From this time he continued in the career of his profession, and of his academical labours, till, in 1773, another situation of public trust was proposed to him, which he was more easily induced to accept. This was the appointment of Second Judge in the Supreme court of Judicature in Bengal, then first established;

Mr. Impey, afterwards sir Elijah, being chief Justice. In India Mr. Chambers had a younger brother, Mr. William Chambers, afterwards highly distinguished for his unrivalled knowledge of the Malabar language, and other dialects of Hindostan; and the prospect of being re-united to his relation certainly was not forgotten among the attractions of this new offer. Immediately before his departure for the East Indies, Mr. Chambers married Miss Wilton, the only daughter of the celebrated statuary of that name; and his mother, Mrs. Chambers, a woman of uncommon virtues and accomplishments, undertook the voyage with them, and continued an inmate of their family till her death, which happened in 1782. They sailed for India in April, 1774. The honour of knighthood was not conferred at the time of his appointment, but, within four years after, was sent out to him, unsolicited, as a mark of royal approbation. How well his original nomination, and his subsequent advancement to the office of Chief Justice, were deserved, it is not necessary here to demonstrate. Sir R. Chambers was steady in pursuing the course which his judgement approved; and, in all the struggles that arose, no opponent ever ventured to insinuate a doubt of his integrity. The unfortunate loss of the Grosvenor East Indiaman, in the year 1782, is but too well remembered by many families. In this public calamity, the private share of sir R. Chambers was disproportionately heavy. He lost his eldest son, a promising youth, then going to England for education; and the uncertain circumstances of the case left to the imagination the most dreadful materials for conjecture. On the resignation of sir E. Impey, in 1791, sir R. Chambers was advanced to the office of Chief Justice; and in 1797 he became President of the Asiatic Society. At length, after having remained in India twenty-five years, he returned to England in 1799, to enjoy his well earned leisure, and the society of his friends; but, alas! not to feel the blessings of good health. His constitution, being delicate, had probably been supported by the warmth of India; and he manifestly shrunk under the rigour of that northern climate, from which he had been so long removed. In the autumn of 1802, his lungs were so much affected that he was advised to winter in the milder air of France, and he had intended to have proceeded to the southern provinces; but the season was too far advanced, and he remained at Paris, where, after a partial recovery, he had an attack of a paralytic nature, which terminated his existence. The body was brought to England by his widow, and on the 23rd of May was interred in the Temple church. Sir Robert had been a bencher of the middle Temple, and his funeral was attended by a considerable number of that society, and a respectable selection of private friends.—*Chatto's Col.*

1803 (May 10).—A great number of keelmen were impressed at Shields, by which the coal trade was much impeded. After being inspected, fifty-three were retained and sent on board the navy; but on the 16th of June following, they returned, government having agreed to take substitutes, and on the 30th, eighty men, raised to serve as such, went down the river Tyne in a keel, to be shipped for the Nore. These were furnished to government at the joint expense of the keelmen, to prevent them being liable to the impress.—*Local Papers*.

June 9.—Died suddenly, at the Wheat-sheaf inn, near the Virginia water, in Windsor Great Park, aged 46, Joseph Richardson, esq., M. P. for Newport, and one of the proprietors of Drury-lane theatre. This gentleman was a native of Hexham in Northumberland. In the year 1774, he entered at St. John's college, Cambridge, where he acquired a fund of sound learning, embellished with a correct taste. He entered himself a student of the middle Temple in 1779, and was called to the bar in 1784. While at college he highly distinguished himself by the elegance, beauty, and vigour of his compositions, both in prose and poetry. Indeed a love of the Muses very early in life took possession of his mind, and often interfered with the austere duties of his study. The works in which he was known to have a principal part were the Rolliad, and the Probationary Odes, in the composition of which his talents were conspicuous. The comedy of The Fugitive is also creditable to his dramatic genius. Mr. Richardson left a widow and four daughters to lament his loss. On the 13th, his body was interred in Egham church-yard.—*Chatto's Col.*

June 26.—Three tents were burnt on the Town-moor, Newcastle; supposed to have been the act of an incendiary.—*Local Papers*.

June 30.—The banking-house of Messrs. Surtees and Burdon, in Newcastle, stopped payment. This to a great number of people was a most disastrous circumstance.—*Ibid.*

August 2.—The committee who received the enrolment of members to serve in the Newcastle Loyal Associated Volunteer Infantry, finished their sittings, after having sworn in upwards of 1,200 men, who had come forward to serve their country at that important crisis. On the following day, a numerous and respectable meeting of the members was held in the merchant's court, when the following gentlemen were nominated and approved of as officers:—Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., colonel; M. W. Ridley, esq., 1st lieutenant colonel; Anthony Hood, esq., 2nd lieutenant colonel; John Hodgson, of Elswick, esq., 1st major; William Grieve, esq., 2nd major; William Ing-ham, esq., to be surgeon; Isaac Cookson, jun., C. D. Purvis, Malin Sorsbie, Robert Clayton, John Brumell, Thomas Hopper, Robert Yel-

lowley, Thomas Clarke, Thomas Smith, and Dixon Brown, esqrs., to be captains; John Gray, William Lloyd, W. R. Calender, William Boyd, Richard Rogerson, Robert Pinkney, Robert Pearson, Samuel Walker Parker, William Cuthbert, and Benjamin Sorsbie, esqrs., to be 1st lieutenants; William Abbs, William Wright, Job James Bulman, John Hall, Thomas Rankin, Thomas Smith, jun., William John Grey, William Fisher, Taylor Winship, and William Peters, esqrs., to be 2nd lieutenants; William Dixon, gentleman, to be adjutant; Mr. Edward Milburn and Mr. William Heaton, to be serjeant majors. August 24th, the members, consisting of ten companies, were marched from their respective parades to the Town-moor, to receive their colonel sir M. W. Ridley, bart. The corps was then formed three deep, and though without uniforms or accoutrements, made a formidable appearance. On the arrival of the worthy colonel in front of the line, he was most cordially cheered with three times three by the whole corps. About the middle of October they received their muskets, and on the 24th, had a general muster for the first time under arms, in a field called Blackett's field, outside of the Town-wall near the Postern-gate. Their uniform consisted of a scarlet jacket, with blue facings, cap and feather, white breeches, and full black gaiters. November 22nd, the corps marched to the Town-moor, for the double purpose of receiving their colours and being inspected by colonel Blakeney, inspecting field-officer. Sir M. W. Ridley, on delivering the colours to the ensigns, made a very appropriate speech; the inspection then commenced, after which the corps went through the various evolutions with great precision. The colonel, after the business of the day was over, presented each company with ten guineas, to make merry with on the occasion. There was also a grand dinner at Loftus's. During the inspection, the Newcastle volunteers kept the ground.—*Local Papers*.

1803 (Aug. 9).—Died, at Newcastle, Mr. William Charnley, aged 76 years, bookseller, and father of the trade in that town; highly and justly respected for his literary and professional talents, his strict integrity and moral worth. His view of human nature was enlarged and liberal, and the natural dignity of his mind was tempered with the purest urbanity. A portrait of Mr. Charnley was engraved for private distribution.—*Local Rec.*

August 15.—John Moses was executed at Durham, pursuant to his sentence, for stealing a quantity of linen-draperly goods in the shop of Benjamin Jackson, of Barnardcastle.—*Ibid.*

About this period workmen commenced the erection of the fever-house, or house of recovery, Newcastle. It consists of three stories, and the interior possesses all the necessary qualities for

such an important purpose. The building was completed and opened for the reception of patients in 1804. It is situated without the Town-wall, on the west side of the town, and in a large and airy piece of ground called the Warden's close, about twenty yards to the west of Herber tower. The site was liberally granted by the corporation.—*Mon. Mag.*



HERBER TOWER (1826).

1803 (Sep. 3).—The foundation stone of an elegant new bridge of cast iron was laid on the north side of the river Tees, at Egglescliffe, in the county of Durham.—*Local Papers.*

September 23.—Died, Mr. Joseph Ritson, a native of Stockton, and born Oct. 2d, 1752. Mr. Ritson was bred to the law, but a passion for ancient English poetry, rhyme, and ballad, induced him to become an indefatigable collector in this way. At one period Ritson possessed a competent property, but it was amongst his anomalies, that, though he detested gambling, he had ventured to speculate with nearly his whole fortune in the funds, and the revulsion consequent on the peace of Amiens, swept away most of his capital. Under these circumstances he sold a portion of his valuable library by auction, and the remainder was reluctantly disposed of by his nephew at Leigh and Sotheby's in December, 1803. He abstained on a principle of humanity from the use of animal food, and published a book in defence of his opinion. He had a considerable turn for topography, and assisted both Brewster and Hutchinson in their respective histories. Many of Ritson's works (some of which were printed at Newcastle), are become extremely rare. He died in a deplorable state of

mental derangement. There is no good portrait of Ritson, only a caricature, a print, and a slight etching, (in the literary anecdotes), both which seem to be taken from the caricature; and a black profile prefixed to his memoirs.—*Surtees*.

1803 (Sep. 25).—An explosion took place at Wallsend colliery, by which event, thirteen individuals lost their lives.—*Local Papers*.

September 26.—Being the day appointed by Mr. Simon Temple, to celebrate the opening of his colliery at Jarrow, the fineness of the day, and the general invitation, drew many thousands of people to witness the passage of the coals to the ship, Fox, which lay, highly decorated with colours, to receive them. Early on the morning, the South Shields bells announced the intended feast, and all the ships in the harbour immediately hoisted their colours. About ten o'clock Mr. Temple arrived at South Shields, to proceed with the shipwrights, attended by the bands of the Northumberland and Anglesea militias, to the place of festivity, celebrated in early time as the birth place of Bede. Immediately on his arrival in the market place, the shipwrights took the horses out of the carriage, and drew him, attended by his father and three sons to Jarrow, with flags flying and music playing. On Jarrow bridge he was met by a large assemblage of gentlemen, headed by sir Cuthbert Heron, bart., who greeted him on his arrival. Their first step was to lay the foundation stone of a school, for the education of the poor children of the various workmen employed by Mr. Temple. This was done by his eldest son, Mr. William Temple, amidst the plaudits of the whole company. They next proceeded to lay the foundation stone of a building intended as a seminary for the instruction of poor females in offices more suited to their sex than several of their employments in the north of England. These commendable acts being finished, the procession moved to another part of the estate, to lay the foundation stone of a fever-house and hospital, for such of the families employed in Mr. Temple's various works as might require these comforts. By this time, several of the clergy of the cathedral of Durham, the corporation barge of Newcastle, with several members of that body, and a great number of the most respectable gentlemen from all parts of the country, had arrived. They now proceeded to the more immediate cause of their meeting, and the waggons being loaded with coals, were taken to the ship, under the banners of the South Shields loyal volunteers, which were then unfurled, and a general discharge of artillery, the music playing "*Weel may the Keel Row*," and other appropriate tunes. It was supposed that not less than ten thousand people were assembled on this occasion. In a tent prepared for their entertainment, about three hundred gentlemen sat down to dinner.

The workmen, in number five hundred, dined at a long table without. After dinner, a great number of loyal and appropriate toasts were given.—*Local Papers.*

1803 (Oct. 4).—The Newcastle volunteers, commanded by lieutenant colonel Clennell, assembled near the Forth to receive their colours, which had been deposited in the mansion-house at their previous disembodiment. Thomas Smith, esq., mayor, with a suitable speech, presented the colours to the commander, who addressed the corps in a handsome and appropriate speech, which was received with three times three cheers. The corps went through their evolutions and firings with great precision. The peculiarity of the uniform (very dark green) worn by the company of riflemen attached to the corps, attracted very general attention. Part of the Gateshead volunteers attended to keep the ground. The corps afterwards dined at Loftus's and spent the day with social mirth.—*Ibid.*

October 25.—The Newcastle waggon train, consisting of upwards of one hundred and fifty waggons and carts, with their horses and drivers, enrolled for the service of government in case of an invasion were mustered upon the Town-moor for inspection. The drivers were dressed in uniform frocks, and the whole had a good appearance.—*Ibid.*

November 6.—The Durham armed association was again called out on the re-commencement of the war, and had their first parade on the above day. Colonel Fenwick resigned the command from ill health in 1806, and was succeeded by Edward Shipperdson, esq. The corps remained embodied till March 24th, 1813, when they had their last parade, and extended their services to the local militia.—*Ibid.*

November 16.—The Gateshead volunteers, commanded by Cuthbert Ellison, of Hebburn, esq., received their colours. About half-past twelve o'clock they arrived on the ground, which was previously kept by the Newcastle volunteers, and formed into line opposite to a stand which had been erected for the accommodation of the ladies. As soon as Mrs. Ellison who presented the colours, had taken her station, supported on the right by the right honourable the earl of Strathmore, and on the left by John Carr, esq., she was received with a general salute; the ceremony then commenced by the regiment going through the manual exercise; after which, three sides of a square were formed by the corps, the stand in front making the fourth. Mrs. Ellison then stepped forward, and after making some appropriate remarks, delivered the colours into the hands of colonel Ellison, who replied in a strain of manly eloquence; he afterwards addressed the corps, and delivered the standards in charge of the ensigns. After going through various manœuvres, the whole was concluded with

a general salute, the colours were then taken to Mr. Bertram's, the Goat inn, Gateshead, where they were deposited.—*Local Papers.*

1803 (Nov. 29).—Died, at North Shields, Ann Turner, at the very advanced age of 105 years. She retained her faculties to the last.—*Ibid.*

December 20.—About five o'clock in the morning, a fire broke out in the Tyne steam-engine paper mill, at Felling-shore, near Gateshead, belonging to Messrs. Hawks and co., which, in a short time, entirely consumed the stock, machinery and buildings.—*Ibid.*

December 26.—A volunteer corps of artificers for Newcastle, under the command of David Stephenson, esq., architect, took the oath of allegiance in the mayor's chamber. Their uniform was a blue jacket and trowsers, and a round hat.—*Ibid.*

December 27.—Died, in the Infirmary, Newcastle, Thomas Houston, brass founder, aged 26 years. He was the author of "*The Race to Hell*," "*Progress of Madness*," "*Poems, Odes, and Songs*," "*The Term-day, or, the Unjust Steward*," a comedy, and various other pieces of considerable merit. He was interred in the burial ground belonging to the Infirmary.—*Ibid.*

The chapel at Whitworth, in the county of Durham, was rebuilt about this period.—*Ibid.*

A life-boat, of the largest dimensions, was this year established at Holy Island, in a situation peculiarly favourable to its immediate use, in cases of shipwreck on the neighbouring coasts. This valuable instrument of preservation was presented by the worthy and beneficent



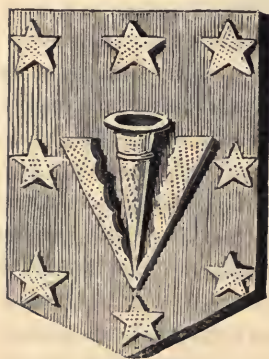
HOLY ISLAND.

trustees of lord Crewe's charity, at Bamborough castle. Mr. Selby gave his ready assistance in forwarding this work of humanity, by granting a piece of ground, and the winning of stones, for the erection of a boat-house.—*Univ. Mag.*

1803.—The light-house near the end of the north pier at Sunderland was erected this year, by Mr. Pickernel, engineer. It is of freestone, sixty-eight feet in height, from the pier to the under side of the cap. It is an elegant octagonal column, lighted by nine argand lamps placed in reflectors: the diameter of each reflector is eighteen inches.—*Surtees.*

1804 (Jan. 7).—About two o'clock on the morning (Sunday), the cotton manufactory belonging to Messrs. Salvin, near St. Oswald's church, in the city of Durham, was discovered to be on fire in the upper stories; the alarm was instantly given, and the Durham volunteers were quickly on the spot. The inhabitants also assembled in great numbers to give assistance, and although the fire engines had speedily arrived from the different churches, yet the fire continued to gain ground, and at about three o'clock the roof fell in. The flames were now seen for miles around the city, as if bursting from a burning crater. Towards daylight the conflagration abated, but the building was reduced to a shell. The south front fell in at eight o'clock, and other portions gave way in the course of the day.—*Local Papers.*

January 18.—A dreadful fire broke out in the brewery at the Lowlights, North Shields, belonging to Henry Coward, esq. It was first discovered about four o'clock in the morning, and was not got under until considerable damage was done.—*Ibid.*



January 23.—Died, at Cowpen, Marlow Sidney, esq., in the 99th year of his age, who was a remarkably eccentric character. For many years he was excessively tortured with the gravel, and latterly passed a number of stones, on an average from six to ten in the course of a day, several larger than a pea, and what is surprising, he felt not the least pain. His antipathy to medical men was so great, that even in his last illness he would not suffer any to attend him. He was very partial to the

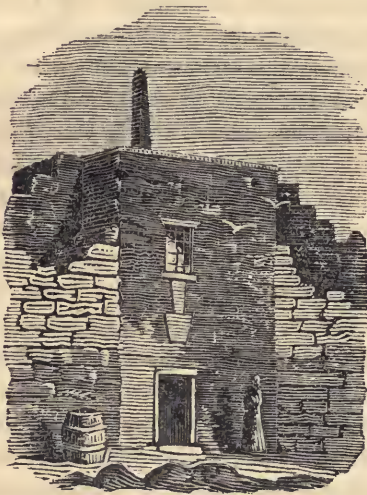
dress and company of the fair sex, but never had the pleasure of tying the hymenial knot. When 70 years of age, his thirst for innocent and childish amusements was such, that he went to the dancing school, where he regularly attended, and appeared highly gratified with his youthful associates. About two years before his

death, a sister, who resided in London, was at the trouble of paying him a visit, and during her short stay he generously indeed *allowed her milk and lodgings*, but for bread, and other necessaries, she was obliged to provide. When he had any money to send to his banker in Newcastle, three of his most trusty servants were well mounted, and armed with pistols, his principal man rode in the middle, with the cash, and the other two at proper distances from him, in the van and rear; in this defensive manner they rode along, the better to resist any attack that might be attempted by daring highwaymen.—*Univ. Mag.*

1804 (Feb. 1).—In the evening of this day, a considerable degree of bustle and confusion prevailed in Newcastle on the subject of invasion. The military, both horse and foot, were all in motion, and the drums of the Staffordshire militia beat to arms. There were strong musters of the Newcastle loyal armed association and volunteers, of the Gateshead volunteers, Usworth legion, and Derwent rangers. An officer's guard was mounted at the head quarters of the Gateshead volunteers during the night, in order to assemble the regiment as soon as possible, should any further particulars transpire relative to the nature of the alarm. In short, such a display of zeal and ardour on behalf of the country was manifested by all descriptions of men, as could not be surpassed. On the following morning, the same cause excited a considerable degree of alarm at Durham. Major Mowbray (notwithstanding several of his men were at a few miles distance) despatched messengers, and had his whole corps in readiness to assemble on the Palace-green in less than two hours, fully equipped for the field. The North Durham corps, commanded by sir Carnaby Haggerstone, were in Berwick all Wednesday. On Thursday, the guards were all doubled, and the volunteers put upon garrison duty; orders were also issued by the mayor, that no person was to be seen on the ramparts after eight o'clock in the evening. Report amused the public during the whole of Wednesday, with a variety of vague and improbable rumours; but the most likely on Thursday was, that the whole had originated in a mistake, of taking the burning of whins on Lammer-muir hills for the lighting of the signals. To prevent a similar mistake, the corporation of Newcastle published the following notice:—"In order to prevent any Alarm in the Country, Notice is hereby given, that the under-mentioned Signals, intended to be made use of in case of invasion, *but only in the Event of the General Officer, commanding his Majesty's Forces in this District, giving Orders for the Removal of the Inhabitants and Stock of this Town*, will be made for the Information of the Inhabitants, on Tuesday the 20th of March instant, between twelve and one o'clock at noon, and between eight and nine o'clock in the even-

ing; and that such Signals will be a Red Flag by Day, and a Light by Night, hoisted at the following places; (viz.)—The Castle, St. Nicholas' Church, All Saint's Church, St. Andrew's Church, and the Tower at the Westgate, accompanied by Five Minute Guns, fired at each of the following places; (viz.)—The Castle, All Saints' Church, Newgate, and Westgate. THOMAS SMITH, mayor.—*Newcastle, 16th March, 1804.*" Agreeably to notice, the signals were tried at the above places, and they were sufficiently seen in every direction to answer the purpose for which they were intended.—*Local Papers.*

1804 (Feb.)—Died at her residence, Carliol tower, in the Carliol-croft, Newcastle (where she conducted a school for young children), at the advanced age of 120, Mary McCrea. She had followed the above profession for 80 years.—*Ibid.*



CARLIOL TOWER (1800).

March 3.—This day, at a hunt near Kingswood, Northumberland, the fox being hard pressed, took shelter in the cleft of a high rock. The hunters provided themselves with spades, &c., and wrought for a considerable time, until they were on the point of reaching the fox, when one of them putting in a lever gave a shock to the rock, which was near forty feet high, and it immediately gave way, and three men that were at the top, with some hundreds of tons of rock, were hurled down the precipice. The ponderous load shivered several trees in its way, and two of the men were almost covered with the fragments; the third was hurled to the bottom, and in the act of recovering his feet, when a large piece of the rock, which followed, knocked him down and buried him. The former two were taken out much bruised; the third was in appearance lifeless.—*Gent's Mag.*



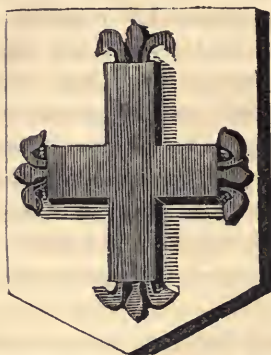
1804 (March 12.)—Died, at Bath, of a repeated stroke of the palsy, aged 67, the rev. Robert Hilton, of Trinity college, Cambridge, B. A. 1760 ; M. A. 1763. He was a native of the city of Durham, where his family had long been established ; paternally descended from a baron by summons, and maternally from the Morlands, who were the original representatives in parliament of that city. His father was a barrister, recorder of Hartlepool, and a superior officer in the bishop's court. Mr. Hilton obtained at Cambridge a good degree and a fellowship of Trinity. He was a favourite member of the True Blue, where he first grew into an intimacy with lord Torrington, who, on leaving college, appointed him his domestic chaplain ; and he, as it were, followed the fortunes of that generous nobleman. When his lordship was chargé d'affaires at Brussels, he accompanied him, and was there introduced to the duke of Portland. His grace distinguished him by particular marks of friendship ; and, on his appointment to the lord lieutenancy of Ireland, offered him a bishoprick then vacant, which, by some inconceivable misunderstanding, Mr. Hilton did not accept. About the same time he accepted from his brother-in-law, — Andrews, esq. of Wells, the living of St. Mawgan, in Cornwall, on which he had resided about three years, when lord George Cavendish invited him, in the most friendly and flattering manner, to take upon him the care of his donative of Latimers, Bucks. About the year 1800, the bishop of Landaff presented him to a prebend in his cathedral, which was the last piece of preferment he enjoyed. So lately as within six weeks, the duke of Portland obtained for him the living of Bothal, in Northumberland, of the value of £1000. per annum. But a paralytic affection, which he had laboured under for above two years, had now rendered him past the enjoyment of this good fortune, and the intervening hand of death prevented even the possession of it—*Chatto's Col.*

March 24.—The new graving dock at St. Peters' Quay, east of Newcastle, built by Mr. William Row, was completed and took in the Henry and the Colpits, two vessels of above three hundred tons burthen. It was capable of receiving vessels of twelve feet water.—*Local Papers.*

April 6.—About eleven o'clock at night a most terrible fire broke out in the extensive glass-works belonging to Messrs. Blackett and Co., at South Shields, which, in a few hours, completely destroyed the building, together with most of the stock and utensils contained in

the same. The whole of the damage was estimated at £3000.—*Local Papers.*

1804 (April 8).—Died, at the house of her grandson, in Gateshead, Mrs. Ann Parkin, aged 104 years. She enjoyed a good state of health till within a few months of her death.—*Ibid.*



April 12.—Died, at the vicarage house, in Newcastle, in the 45th year of his age, the rev. Joseph Dacre Carlyle, B. D., and member of the society of Antiquaries, London. Mr. C. was the son of George Carlyle, M. D., of Carlisle, and born in that city, June 4th, 1758. There he received his early education, and in 1775, entered of Christ's college, Cambridge, which he afterwards quitted for Queen's college. After leaving college, he settled

in Carlisle, where he obtained one of the two parish churches, of which he performed the duties many years. In 1793, he took his degree of B. D., and the following year was elected to the professorship of Arabic. In 1795 he was called to the chancellorship of the diocese of Carlisle, vacated by the celebrated Dr. Paley. In 1799, from his great skill in oriental literature, he was appointed by Mr. Pitt to attend the embassy of the earl of Elgin, to the Ottoman court; to this he agreed, but had no official situation. Whilst at Constantinople he was admitted (according to expectation) into the libraries, and made catalogues of the works which they contained; after a residence of some months in the capital, he undertook, with a small party, a very extensive expedition into the provinces of the empire. His route lay through Asia Minor, and through countries which had not been penetrated by Europeans since the Turkish conquest. This was a very hazardous journey. He spent some time in the Troad, and surveyed with accuracy the site which had been assigned to ancient Troy. After a long journey by land, he took shipping and sailed (touching at many of the Grecian islands) to Alexandria, where he found sir Sidney Smith, aboard the "Tigre," with whom he spent six weeks. From Egypt he proceeded into Syria, and spent some time in Jerusalem, and other remarkable parts of the Holy-land, from whence he returned to Constantinople, where he resided some time. He next travelled into Greece and visited the ruins of some of its most celebrated cities. He visited the plains of Marathon, where the monument of Miltiades still remains. With great labour he made catalogues of all the works in the twenty-two libraries which are contained in the twenty-two monasteries of Mount

Athos. In this he was assisted by the rev. Philip Hunt,* chaplain to the embassy. Many of the monks impressed him with a high opinion of their abilities and learning. Before his return to England, he made a tour through part of Italy, from whence he proceeded through the Tyrol and part of Germany, and landed in England in September 1801. During his absence he had visited the most celebrated countries of the old world. Soon after his return he was presented by the bishop of Carlisle to the vicarage of Newcastle, into which living he was inducted October 5th, 1801, but, unfortunately for literature and his friends, he did not long enjoy his promotion. His health had probably been injured by the fatigues of his travels, and the variety of climate he had endured, and he laboured for a considerable time under a painful and distressing malady which terminated his existence as above stated. He lies buried at St. Cuthbert's, Carlisle, with the rest of the family.—*Gent's Mag.*

1804 (April 18).—The agreement was closed between the stewards of the incorporated companies of Newcastle and an agent from government, for eleven acres of ground on the Town-moor, at a rent of £55. per annum, on which to erect a large depôt for military stores, barracks, stabling, &c. These erections were completed in April, 1806. —*Local Papers.*

April 20.—The duke of Northumberland, lord of the manor of Tynemouth, at the request of the inhabitants of the said manor, established a weekly market on the Friday, at North Shields; also two fairs to be held annually at the same place, on the last Friday in April, and the first Friday in November, for the sale of cattle and all other goods, and for the hiring of servants. Agreeably to public notice, the market was accordingly opened, for the first time, on the above day; when, notwithstanding the unfavourable weather, a great variety of wares were exhibited for sale, and the market was very numerously attended. At noon a salute of cannon announced its full establishment. The business of the day commenced, however, at the Bull-ring, North Shields, where a number of the neighbouring gentlemen attended, accompanied by the duke of Northumberland's tenants, all on horseback. The proclamation was first read by the bailiff of Tynemouthshire, and clerk of the market, when the procession moved forward to the Market-place. The duchess of Northumberland's piper, mounted on a white pony, and playing the favourite strain of "My Jockey stays long at the fair," led the van; next to him rode the bailiff of the manor and his deputy, and then followed the gentlemen, and tenants, two and two. When they arrived at the

* A native of Newcastle, who had his early education at the Grammar School there.

post-office, another proclamation was made : they then proceeded to Tynemouth castle gates, and from thence to the place where the ancient cross of Tynemouth stood, in the days of the Priory, making a proclamation at each place ; the piper then performed some northern airs, in a style that would have done no dishonour to Courtney, Gow, or Allen. The inhabitants of the parish of Tynemouth, and the adjacent parts of the south-east corner of Northumberland, were much benefited by these arrangements.—*Mon. Mag.*

1804 (April 29).—The Newcastle volunteers, commanded by lieutenant Clennell, commenced in Newcastle their twenty-one days of permanent duty, which they undertook with an ardour and alacrity highly honourable to the corps.—*Local Papers.*

About this period a life boat was established at Redcar, near the mouth of the Tees, which has often proved highly serviceable to the crews of vessels wrecked on the coast. As a considerable time necessarily elapsed before either this boat or that at Hartlepool could reach ships in distress on the north side of the Tees, Jonathan Backhouse, esq., of Darlington, has since provided a life boat at his own expence, which is stationed at Seaton Carew.—*Meckenzie and Ross' Dur.*

April 30.—The North Shields and Tynemouth volunteers entered upon permanent duty for one month ; the guards of Clifford's fort, Tynemouth barracks, and the Spanish battery, were delivered up to them. The company in Clifford's fort had not been in possession of it more than four hours, when major Doyle, of the light brigade, from Sunderland, crossed the Tyne, in a large flat bottomed boat, accompanied by one company of the 61st regiment, another of the Northumberland and another of the Lanarkshire militia. The commander of the besieging party having summoned the fort to surrender, received a refusal, on which it was attempted to be taken by storm, but they were every way repulsed. The number of the volunteers within the fort being insufficient for the guarding the embrasures and the walls, an express was sent off for the remainder of the corps to hasten to their assistance. The light company was in the van, when they arrived at the Low-lights bank, they beheld a fight, which, to them, was rather novel ; the bridge was in possession of a party of the besiegers, they instantly commenced a brisk fire on the volunteers, who nevertheless forced the pass by the point of the bayonet.—After the arrival of the volunteers, the fight became general, and great skill was displayed on both sides. The temper of the troops was well preserved, a determined coolness and intrepidity was visible in both parties, and the volunteers proved themselves worthy of being entrusted with the fort, having so bravely defended it against excellent

troops, some of which were of the line. During the contest, a party of the volunteers crossed the Tyne, and struck the tents of the besieging party.—*Local Papers*.

1804 (April).—Died, at the advanced age of 103, Mrs. Margaret Holmes of Sunderland Bridge, near Durham; she retained all her faculties till within a few days of her death.—*Univ. Mag.*



BROAD CHARE, NEWCASTLE.

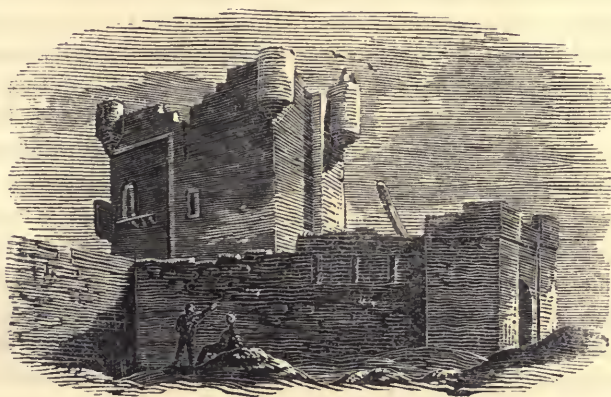
This month, a young man named Stoddart, a seaman, was pursued by the press gang down the Broad-chare, Newcastle, when, to escape them, he jumped into the Tyne, and attempted to swim across the river to Gateshead. One of them threatening to fire at him if he did not return, the fright and exertion took away his strength, and he was drowned.—*Univ. Mag.*

May 25.—This day (Friday), being the general fast, the Newcastle loyal associated volunteer infantry assembled on their parade ground, from whence they marched to St. Nicholas' church, and attended divine service. The same day their route arrived for the performance of permanent duty for twenty-one days, upon which they entered with cheerfulness: nearly eight hundred privates having previously volunteered their services for duty.—*Local Papers*.

May 29.—The Society of Arts presented the silver medal to Mr.

William Watson, of North Middleton, near Belford, in Northumberland, for the comparative culture of turnips.—*Local Papers*.

1804 (May).—On removing a mound of earth, to make the outer entrance into Tynemouth castle more suitable to the ingress and egress of heavy pieces of ordnance, vast quantities of human bones were found, supposed to be the remains of bodies buried there, after the storming of the castle in 1648, by Cromwell's troops, under the command of sir Arthur Heslerigg.—*Univ. Mag.*



OUTER FACE OF THE GATEWAY OF TYNEMOUTH CASTLE,
Designed from Grose, &c., as seen in 1783.

June 4.—All the volunteer corps within a day's march of New-castle, were assembled on the Town-moor there, and fired three volleys in honour of his majesty's birth-day. The line extended above a mile in length. A great concourse of spectators was present.—*Local Papers*.

June 9.—A very serious riot took place at Berwick, between a recruiting party of the York reserve, and some of the inhabitants. In a short time upwards of a thousand people were upon the street, and swords and bayonets were seen glaring among the crowd in great numbers; the most dreadful oaths and groans were heard in every quarter. The main guard soon turned out, and eagerly rushed forward to the assistance of their officers and comrades, the former having exerted their authority in vain. The utmost confusion and uproar prevailed, and there seemed no mode left of quelling the riot until the mayor, attended by his officers, with the other magistrates, and a considerable number of private gentlemen interfered; their united exertions at length were successful, after many desperate blows were given and received, and quietness was at last restored upon the soldiers retiring to the barracks. The mayor was several

times upon the point of causing the riot act to be read, but this was fortunately rendered unnecessary the moment that the swords and bayonets were sheathed. The conduct of the chief magistrate during the affray was judicious, spirited and manly; he derived great assistance from the energetic exertions and coolness of captain Locke of the royal navy.—*Local Papers.*

1804 (June 15).—A play and farce (The Revenge, and The Old Maid), were performed in the theatre royal, Newcastle, by the officers of the second Staffordshire militia, for the benefit of the infirmary.—*J. Bell's Col.*

June.—As some workmen were pulling down an old house at Gallow-hill, in Northumberland, a bag of gold pieces, of the coin of Charles I. was found; the legend *Carolus D. G. Mag. Bri. F. et Hi. Rex.* and XX, behind the head, to denote its value in shillings; and on the reverse, round the arms, *Floreat Concordia Regni.*—*Local Papers.*

June.—Military encampments were formed on the coast of Northumberland.—*Ibid.*

July 2.—The Gateshead volunteers, commanded by lieutenant colonel Askew, marched into Newcastle for the performance of three weeks permanent duty. The arrival of the corps was greeted by various peals from the bells of St Nicholas'.—*Ibid.*

July 20.—Died, at Burnt-houses, Whickham Fell, Mrs. Dunn, aged 107 years.—*Ibid.*

July 25.—Between eight and nine o'clock at night, the hold of the sloop Eliza, of Aberdeen, lying at Newcastle Quay, with a valuable cargo of merchandise on board, was discovered to be on fire. The drums and bugle of the armed association immediately sounded an alarm, when the members of that corps (who had a little before returned from the field), were in a few minutes assembled and proceeded to the Quay, where they were of the utmost service in keeping off the crowd, and protecting the property that was taken out of the vessel. Two engines were managed with so much skill, that about eleven o'clock, the fire was completely got under. The cargo being much burnt and injured, the loss was very great.—*Ibid.*

July.—A vote having been passed at the quarter sessions, to double the width of the passage of Elvet-bridge, in the city of Durham, the work was commenced this month, and the last arch was closed August 4th, 1805. The workmen, in taking down part of the southernmost pillar, found amongst the masonry a noble of Edward VI.—*Surtees.*

August 4.—Died, at the inn at Cornhill, in Northumberland, admiral lord viscount Duncan. He was on his road from London to Scotland.—*Local Papers.*

1804 (Aug. 31).—A general muster of the Newcastle waggon train, under the command of captain Davidson, took place upon the Town-moor, when the whole, amounting to upwards of a hundred and sixty waggons, carts, &c., were assembled. After being minutely inspected, the whole passed the captain in the greatest order and regularity. The corps was officered by a captain commandant, two lieutenants, and five superintendents or ensigns, who held commissions from the lord lieutenant, and consisted of fifteen troops, each under the immediate direction of a conductor, who was a warrant officer. It was the only regular establishment of the kind (except the royal waggon train) in England.—*Local Papers*.

September.—Died at South Shields, John More, aged 101 years, 90 of which he used the sea.—*Univ. Mag.*

September 12.—The two volunteer corps of Newcastle, with the waggon train, were inspected on the Town-moor, by the hon. brigadier general Grey. The associated corps mustered about seven hundred privates, and the Newcastle volunteers about two hundred, all of whom were mounted upon the carts and waggons provided for the occasion, and proceeded in this manner to town. The novelty of the scene drew together an immense crowd of spectators. In case of actual invasion, the plan was admirably calculated to lessen the fatigues of a long march, and to preserve unimpaired the vigour of the troops till the moment of action.—*Local Papers*.

September 27.—A silver cup, value fifty guineas, raised by a subscription of the gentlemen of the Newcastle Hunt, was run for on Newcastle race ground. Out of thirty subscribers, only five started. It was won by Isaac Cookson, jun., esq.—*Ibid.*

September 29.—About six o'clock in the evening, a most alarming fire broke out in the back premises, known by the name of Coward's yard, in Alnwick, inhabited by poor people, which threatened serious consequences, as many thatched houses were nearly adjoining; but the wind providentially kept moderate. Two engines were soon on the spot, and were well supplied with water, notwithstanding which, four houses in one row, containing nine families, were burnt down.—*Ibid.*

December.—Died, at Bishop Auckland, Mrs. Ann Simpson, wife of Mr. John Simpson, inn-keeper, aged 52. She was so corpulent as to require a coffin three feet over the shoulders, and it was necessary to displace a window to get it out of the house.—*Univ. Mag.*

December 9.—Died, at Hexham, Sarah Stephenson, aged 102 years.—*Local Papers*.

Died, this year, at Hentlaw, near Ponteland, at the age of 100 years, Mr. John Lumsden, who notwithstanding his privation of

sight, enjoyed, till within a few hours of his death, the most uninterrupted flow of health and spirits.—*Mon. Mag.*

1804.—A neat and convenient meeting house was built in the Green Bat, Alnwick, for the use of the associate church.—*Mackenzie's Northd.*

This year, a superb painting by the celebrated Giordano, representing the last supper, was presented by George Anderson, esq., to the inhabitants of the chapelry of St. Andrew's, in Newcastle, which was placed above the communion table of that church.—*Local Papers.*



CHANCEL OF ST. ANDREW'S (1826).

Cocken Hall, about four miles north of the city of Durham, this year, became the residence of a convent of Nuns, of the order of St. Theresa, from Lier, in Flanders.—*Surtees.*

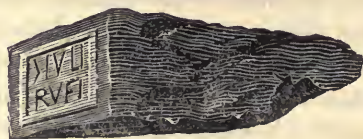
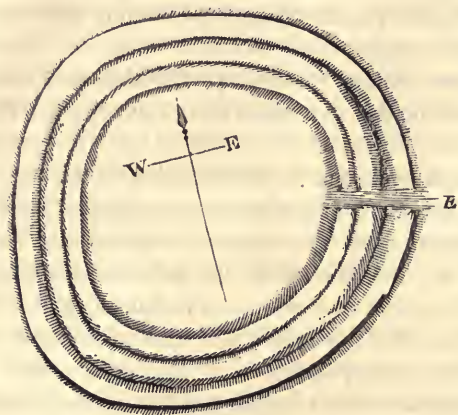
About this period, Mr. Bell, the tenant of the farmstead, called High Warden, near Hexham, discovered a subterraneous passage, which remained open some years; but as it soon became the favourite retreat and habitation of a colony of foxes, it became necessary to fill up the excavation with earth and stones. It was never properly explored; and it is uncertain whether it was used as a magazine, a place of sacrifice, or of sepulture for those who fell in the defence, or attack, of a fort which is situate near two hundred yards to the south of the passage. This fort is situate on a high hill, called the castle hill, where are the remains of a British strength, shewn in the accompanying ground plan. This ancient fortification

includes an area of above two acres, and has been defended by a rampart of unhewn stone, as were all those British forts that pre-

ceded the Roman times: the other rampiers of earth, and their corresponding ditches, which circumscribe the original works, were probably added by the Romans, or the Romanised Britons, who would not neglect to occupy such a commanding station. The entrance has been on the east, and the approach to it is flanked by stone ramparts. The remains

of buildings may yet be distinctly traced within the lines: where also several hand mills or *querns* have been discovered. It commands an extensive prospect up both the Tynes, and has in view all the principal buildings or villages up the same rivers. Behind the vicarage house at Warden are the traces of another military station, called also the *Castle Hill*, and what has once been an out-work of the former; or this post may have been erected by the Romans, to bridle the British strength, which they could not assault.—*Mackenzie's Northd.*

1804.—This year a portion of a long and picturesque line of the Roman wall, about two hundred yards in length, a little to the west of Denton Hall, near Newcastle, was dismantled of its antient garb of thorns and hazels, and levelled for the plough. During its erasement the first and second stones, inscribed *Q IVLI RVFI* i. e. “Centurio



Julius Rufus," were found, and the third almost wholly obliterated ; but it probably refers to the cohort which was in garrison in this neighbourhood. They were removed to Denton hall, where they are now carefully preserved by the present proprietor among other antiquities found there or in the vicinity.—*MS. Col.*

1804.—Walkergate lane chapel (Baptist), Berwick-on-Tweed, founded. The register of births extends from 1805 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

1805 (Feb. 28).—About four o'clock in the morning of this day, a tremendous gale from the W.N.W. set in motion the duke of Northumberland's windmill, situated near Tynemouth barracks, and from the rapidity of the movement, the friction of the axle-tree set fire to the adjoining timber. The whole roof was soon in flames, and went off in large flakes of fire. By this time the metal wheels belonging to the machinery were red-hot, and presented, in countless whirls of motion, one of the grandest and most awful sights the imagination can conceive. The wands at length fell with a mighty crash, bringing with them the rim of the building-stones, wheels and axle-tree. Nothing was left but the bare stone trunk. No person was hurt ; but the loss in flour and grain was estimated at one thousand pounds.—*Local Papers.*

April.—Died, at Bath, aged 62, John Clark, M. D., fellow of the royal college of physicians, Edinburgh, and senior physician to the Infirmary of Newcastle ; whose eminence and success in his profession were the deserved reward of great abilities, devoted from his earliest years to the diligent study and faithful exercise of it ; and whose goodness of heart and simplicity of manners ensured him the warm attachment of an extensive circle of friends. Applying the whole force of his mind to the principles of medical science, they became the habitual and familiar objects of his pursuit, from a sentiment of taste as well as duty. This led him to investigate the cases of the sick with that careful and patient attention which was naturally followed by an accurate discrimination of their diseases, while the kind concern he shewed for their sufferings, and the skill which he exerted in the vigorous application of the resources of his art for their relief, engaged the most implicit confidence of those who were under his care.—His attentions were not confined to any class or society. For many years he was by pre-eminence the physician of the poor, and, in seasons of the most extensive practice, his mind was always employed in devising plans for their relief in the time of their distress.—To him that useful institution, the Dispensary, owes its establishment ; the preservative and inoculative departments were afterwards added under his direction ; and by his means the Infir-

mary was so greatly improved, both as to accommodation and internal management, as deservedly to rank with the most celebrated hospitals in Great Britain.—The Fever Hospital, also, established for the prevention of contagious diseases, is the fruits of his exertions, although the plan which he proposed was not entirely adopted. His reputation as a medical writer has long been fully established by his *Observations on the Diseases of Hot Climates*, and his *Treatise on Fevers*, and his *Collection of Papers relative to Contagion*, contain a body of evidence of infinite importance to the medical inquirer. Dr. Clark's remains were, at his own request, deposited, on the 24th of April, in the church-yard of Weston, near Bath; near the grave of his friend, the late Mr. Bigge, of Benton house, near Newcastle.—*Mon. Mag.*

1805 (May 21).—Died, at Sunderland, Mr. Edward Lawson, aged 106; he was blind three years, but recovered his sight a short time previous to his death and had an extraordinary memory.—*Ibid.*

May 25.—Died, at Bishopwearmouth rectory, in the sixty-second year of his age, William Paley, D.D. This eminent philosopher and divine of the church of England, was born at Peterborough, in 1743. In 1795, he was presented by the bishop of Durham (Barrington) to the living of Bishopwearmouth. He was also sub-dean of Lincoln. He was the author of some excellent works, viz.—“*Principles of Moral and Political Philosophy*,” “*Horæ Paulinæ*,” “*View of the Evidences of Christianity*,” “*Natural Theology, or Evidences of the Existence and Attributes of the Deity*,” “*Sermons*,” &c. &c.—*Ibid.*

May.—In making a grave on the north aisle of Hexham church, a stone coffin was discovered, on opening which the bones of a human being were found quite entire. They were supposed to be those of Alfwold, king of Northumberland, who was assassinated at Seythescestre (Walwick Chesters), by Sigan, a lord of his court, in the year 788.—*Mon. Mag.*

June 5.—Mr. William Temple, of Beamish, was presented, by the Society of Arts, with a gold medal, value thirty guineas, for his great exertions in draining, cultivating, and improving 308 acres of waste land, being a part of Chester division, of which the purchase money, in 1799, was £2665. but which, on the 24th of March 1804, was valued at £9025. The Society expressed themselves highly pleased at the report of so large a quantity of land being brought into such a state of agriculture, in the short space of three years and a half.—*Mon. Mag.*

June 19.—A fair for the disposal of wool was established at Morpeth, and held for the first time on the above day. It was

intended to be continued annually, on the third Wednesday in that month.—*Mon. Mag.*

1805 (June 28).—Lord Elibank crossed the Scottish border with the Peebleshire volunteers. The regiment having arrived at Carhamhaugh, in Northumberland, were formed in line, when they fired three volleys and gave three cheers. This was the first Scottish volunteer corps that had entered England in a body. The men, after being plentifully regaled by their officers with several casks of porter, &c., returned to their quarters at Kelso in the evening.—*Local Papers.*

August 7.—The new brewery at the Dean, near South Shields, was burnt down.—*Ibid.*

August 12.—Richard Metcalfe was executed at Durham for the murder of his son-in law.—*Ibid.*

August 13.—Died, at Newcastle, aged 18, Mr. Thomas Pattison, son of Mr. Mark Pattison, and apprentice to the late Mr. Murray, surgeon. He was a youth of extraordinary literary acquirements, and was remarkable at that early period of his life for his studious and inquisitive turn of mind. So retentive was his memory that after a single hearing he could write down the precise words of a philosophical lecture which had engaged the orator an hour and a half in the delivery with all the necessary calculations and scientific terms accurately repeated. He was of a mild and unassuming disposition, and never shewed any attachment to those games and diversions which usually occupy the time and attention of thoughtless adolescence.—*Mon. Mag.*



CHAPTER III.



HOMAS CLARE, a private in the 2nd Staffordshire militia, was executed, according to his sentence, at the Westgate, Newcastle, on August 16th, 1805, for the murder of William Todd. He was much agitated on witnessing the awful preparation for eternity, so much so, that he appeared nearly dead before his suspension; he made no public confession of his guilt. The murder was committed

August 19th, 1804, during the time the regiment was encamped near Hartley.—*Local Papers.*

August 19.—About three o'clock in the morning, a terrible fire was discovered in the colour manufactory at the Ouseburn, occupied by Messrs. Parker, of Newcastle. The flames raged with such fury, that in a short time the building was almost totally destroyed. The immense quantities of resin which were in the premises, kept it burning furiously for a considerable time. It was suspected that the mischief was caused by an incendiary. The fire when discovered, was in the very centre of the works, which unfortunately were not insured. The damage was estimated at upwards of £4,000.—*Ibid.*

In the evening of the same day, William Henry West Betty, the young Roscius, aged 13 years, first performed at the Theatre-Royal, Newcastle, in the character of Douglass. He performed thirteen nights, and drew crowded audiences. The receipts during that time were £1889. 16s. 6d., at the advanced prices, averaging £145. 7s. 5d. per night. The last night (13th), he performed Rollo for his own benefit, which produced £210. 9s.—*Ibid.*

September 15.—This day (Sunday), at noon, William Cuzen, a private in the royal artillery, aged about 28 years, blew out his brains

with a horse pistol, near the village of Westoe, South Shields. A short time before, he called at a public-house in Westoe, and wrote a letter, of which the following is a copy:—

“Mr. EDWARD CHADWICK, } Burgh Hall,
Mr. THOMAS CHADWICK, } Lancashire.”

“Ab hoc memento pencit æternitas !”

“Dreadful attempt !

Just reeking from self-slaughter, in a rage,
To rush into the presence of our judge ;
As if we

matter'd not his wrath ! Unheard-of tortures
Must be reserv'd for such : these herd together,
The common damn'd shun their society,
And look upon themselves as fiends less foul.”

“WM. CUZEN.”

“I once had thousands, and was once philosopher enough to brave misfortunes, but I have been neglected, therefore have I done this. I am gone a long journey, but *if possible*, will return to torment ingratitude. I was ever grateful. The world has lost an ornament, a diamond in the rough.”

The coroner's inquest returned a verdict of lunacy. Part of the letter is a quotation from Blair's Poem of “The Grave.”—*Mon. Mag.*

1805 (Oct. 21).—Died, Mrs. Kidd, mother of Mr. Kidd, flax-dresser in Newcastle, at the great age of 103 years.—*Local Papers.*

October 21.—An explosion took place in Hebburn colliery, by which thirty-five human beings lost their lives, leaving twenty-five widows and eighty-one children unprovided for.—*Ibid.*

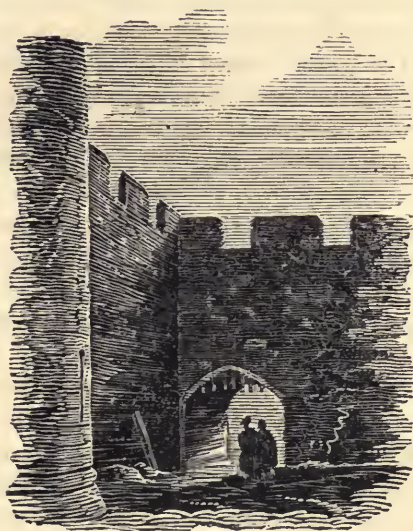
November 28.—An explosion took place in Oxelose colliery, by which unfortunate accident thirty-eight human beings were hurried into eternity, and eighteen widows and seventy children were thrown upon the charity of the public.—*Ibid.*

December 10.—In the evening of this day, was found dead, on the road between Hexham and Haydon-bridge, Mr. Thomas Graham, merchant, of the latter place. His death was occasioned by a fall from his horse. It was very remarkable, a strange dog was lying by the body when found, and would suffer no person to come near it till forced. It afterwards followed the body to Haydon-bridge, up into the chamber where it was laid, and being driven out of the room, it found his boots in another, and lay down upon them ; it also followed close behind the body to the place of interment, and was seen many days afterwards howling and scratching upon the grave. The dog belonged to Mr. Armstrong, butcher, of Hexham. Mrs. Batey, of the Grey Bull inn, Hexham, where Mr. Graham set out from, heard a dog howling horribly as Mr. Graham left her house.—*Ibid.*

1805 (Dec. 10).—During the night an extraordinary high tide took place at Shields, and the sea being very high, occasioned the waves to break with great fury against the stone quay at the foot of Tyne-mouth barracks, built by order of his royal highness the duke of York. Several of the woodenheads or breakwaters, finished in the most substantial manner, were torn from their places in front of the wall and dashed to pieces. The tide washed down the sentry-box near Clifford's fort, although placed where the water seldom reached. Much old ship timber was carried adrift, and, by driving up and down, damaged and sunk several boats. The sea continued high for some days.—*Local Papers*.

December 26.—Died, at Fenwick hall, near Stamfordham, in Northumberland, Mrs. Ann Dixon, aged 100 years.—*Ibid*.

Printing was first established in Morpeth, this year, by Mr. Stephen Wilkinson, bookseller and post-master.—*Hodgson's Northd.*



WHITE FRIARS' POSTERN (1600).

Designed from existing remains, and other authorities.

This year, the White-friars' postern—commonly but very erroneously called the “Postern Gate” situate near to Nevil tower, on the ancient wall of Newcastle, was removed to widen the thoroughfare. It was used as means of egress for the monks of the adjacent friary, as a place for a sortie of the garrison of the castle which is near to it, and was the scene of a gallant exploit in remote times. It was of great strength, had oaken doors, a strong porteullis, and was flanked on the north-west by Nevil tower.—*MS. Col.*

A Roman celt was this year ploughed out of Tunstall-hills, in the

county of Durham. It was about five inches long, and two and a half inches broad at the edge.—*Local Rec.*

1806 (Jan. 9).—Being the day appointed for the funeral of lord Nelson, at the cathedral of St. Paul, in London, the bells of St. Nicholas' and All Saints' churches, in Newcastle, rung muffled peals at intervals during the day. The great bell of St. Mary's, in Gateshead, was tolled on the same melancholy occasion. At South Shields, the great bell tolled at intervals, from sun-rise to sun-set, and the ensign on the steeple was hoisted half-staff high; in the evening a solemn peal was rung from seven to eight o'clock, and besides these marks of respect to departed heroism, most of the inhabitants appeared in mourning, and all the ships in the harbour displayed their colours half-mast high. In 1807, Alexander Davison, esq., of Swarland, in Northumberland, erected an obelisk of freestone, to the memory of private friendship borne by him to the gallant admiral. It stands near the post road, about a mile north of the village of Felton.—*Ibid.*

January 12.—The newly erected iron bridge over the river Tees, near Yarm, fell with a tremendous crash and concussion that was sensibly felt in every part of the town. Fortunately the old bridge remained, or the road leading into that part of the country must have been almost totally disused, at least for some time.—*Univ. Mag.*

January 13.—Died, in Toll street, North Shields, Mr. William Lamshaw, aged 25 years, her grace the duchess of Northumberland's piper. This extraordinary performer on the improved small pipes, was grandson of the celebrated piper Lamshaw, of Morpeth, on whose demise, he was taken from the band of the Northumberland militia, where he had been since a boy of twelve years' of age. When only eighteen, he played a match against the most famed pipers in the north of England, at Elsdon, before the duke's baronial court, and some distinguished judges, and bore away the prize.—*Mon. Mag.*

February 8.—Between four and five o'clock in the morning, the premises occupied by Messrs. Beilby and Hawthorn, watch-glass manufacturers, in Bell's-court, Pilgrim-street, Newcastle, were discovered to be so totally enveloped in flames, that every exertion to extinguish the devouring element, proved unavailing, and the whole were consumed in the course of an hour. The stock, which amounted to between two and three thousand pounds, was entirely destroyed.—*Local Papers.*

March 16.—A fire was discovered in one of the bed-rooms of the house of William Hodshon, esq., at Merry Shields, Northumberland. The flames soon raged with such fury, that the whole inside of the

building, with the beds, furniture, wine in the cellar, and valuables to a great amount, were totally destroyed.—*Local Papers*.

1806 (March 19).—Died, at Newcastle, in his 45th year, Andrew Young, M.D., and fellow of the royal college of physicians in Edinburgh; a man who was remarkably successful during an extensive practice in that town and neighbourhood. Under a blunt, though candid and honest address, he possessed a most feeling and benevolent heart; and whatever his failings might be, he enjoyed the confidence and good will of all men who knew him. If his eccentricities estranged any one from him who had formerly possessed his friendship, no one could ever impeach the honour and integrity of his conduct; for though the doctor could not bear “the proud man’s contumely,” still he was “the poor man’s friend.” Being a member of the Newcastle loyal volunteers, he was interred with military honours, in St. Andrew’s church-yard, and was also attended to the grave by most of the surgeons and physicians resident in the town.—*Mon. Mag.*

March 24.—Died, in the Workhouse, at Sunderland, Barbara Coag, aged 103 years.—*Local Papers*.

March 28.—An explosion took place in Killingworth colliery, by which unfortunate occurrence ten persons lost their lives.—*Ibid.*

April 1.—Died, at Gateshead, Ann Maddison, aged 103 years.—*Ibid.*

April 5.—A terrible fire was discovered in the malting of Messrs. Barras and Co., in Gateshead, which did considerable damage to the building and stock of malt.—*Ibid.*

April 6.—Died, at South Shields, Hannah Gordon, aged 100 years.—*Ibid.*

April 7.—As two sawyers in the boat building yard of Mr. Masterton, near Gateshead, were sawing a well grown elm tree, they were suddenly stopped in the midst of their work by a harder body than the wood, which on further examination, proved to be a horse shoe, in good preservation, and which there was no reason to doubt had been there since the first growth of the timber. It was found in the very core of the tree, where a fine impression of the shoe was made on the surrounding surface. No visible injury appeared to have been sustained by the timber in consequence of this strange companion.—*Ibid.*

April 20.—This day, (Sunday) earl Percy having attained his 21st year, the morning was ushered in by the ringing of bells at every church in the county of Northumberland. On Monday the celebration of that happy event was of the most harmonious and enthusiastic kind; at Alnwick, in particular, no circumstance in the memory of the oldest person living ever excited such rapturous feelings of con-

gratulation and joy as were displayed in that town on the occasion. The representatives of the duke, at Alnwick castle, also entered



INNER GATEWAY, ALNWICK CASTLE.

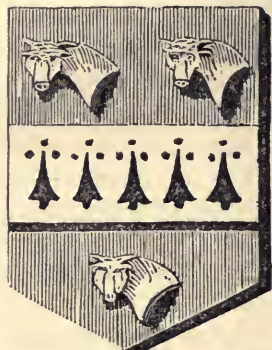
warmly into the general enthusiasm, by co-operating with the public in rendering the joyous day an event as memorable as it was important. A large ox was roasted in the market-place, and seven hundred loaves were provided for the entertainment of the people in the town and neighbourhood. Two pipes of remarkable strong beer, brewed when earl Percy was born, were brought from Keilder castle, which, with thirty other barrels of strong ale, were also distributed among the populace; and to add to the entertainment, a building was erected in the market place to contain a band of music, who played during the principal part of the day. The Percy tenantry, in and about Alnwick, were called up and treated in the most liberal manner. The three companies of cavalry and nine of infantry, were entertained at his grace's expence, with an excellent dinner and a bottle of wine each man, and three shillings were allowed for the expence of each horse. An elegant dinner was provided at the White Swan inn, for all the officers of the corps, and the principal gentlemen in the neighbourhood. About five hundred suits of clothes were given to the cottagers upon the noble duke's estates. The officers of the Percy tenantry in the neighbourhood of Newcastle, who could not, without inconvenience, pay a visit to Alnwick, were munificently entertained

at the Turk's head inn in that place, with an elegant dinner, and the day was spent with the utmost conviviality. The Percy tenantry infantry were regaled at Mrs. Thrift's market place, North Shields, and the cavalry at Tynemouth,—*Local Papers*.

1806 (May).—Died, at South Shields, aged 101, Margaret Tate, who could read a newspaper till two days before her death.—*Univ. Mag.*

May 19.—A plan of the grounds belonging to his majesty at Tynemouth castle, Spanish battery, &c., and of the works raised for the defence of the castle against the parliament's army in the reign of king Charles the first, was taken by order of government.—*Ibid.*

June 5.—The foundation stone of the new subscription library, in Howard street, North Shields, was laid with great solemnity by William Linskill, esq., high sheriff of Northumberland. A plate with a latin inscription, was deposited in the stone. November 5th, 1807. the building was opened with a concert of vocal and instrumental music.—*Local Papers*.



July 5.—Died, in Northumberland street, Newcastle, in his 85th year, the rev. Hugh Moises, A. M., many years head master of the free grammar school in that town, and justly celebrated for his laborious and successful discharge of that important duty. During the presidency of the rev. Mr. Moises, the right hon. the earl of Eldon, lord Stowell, lord Collingwood, and several other eminent persons obtained the rudiments of their education in this seminary. On the 4th of

April, 1761, he was appointed forenoon lecturer of All Saints, where for about thirty years he fulfilled that office with the same unremitting attention; and, from the circumstance of his reducing to practice the several virtues he inculcated from the pulpit, added to a peculiar but striking manner of delivery, which did not fail to arrest the attention of the most careless part of his audience, the church was numerously attended during his labours. So great an aversion had he to eat the bread of idleness, that while the edifice was rebuilding, he made a tender of his salary, unless a place was procured in which he could officiate; and this was the cause of the chapel of the Trinity house being opened until the new church was finished. And so desirous was he to cultivate a spirit of industry in others, that, when assailed in the street by a sturdy beggar, he generally took the opportunity of making a present to some poor but industrious person who might be on the spot, and left the mendicant unnoticed. On resigning the mastership of the grammar school, June 14th 1787, Mr.

Moises was presented, by his pupils, with an elegant and valuable diamond ring, on which was engraven the following motto:—"OPTIME MORENTI," as a testimony of their gratitude for his attention to and care of their education, which he was pleased to accept in a condescending and gracious manner, highly to the satisfaction of the pupils, whose sorrow on losing so worthy and amiable a master was unaffected. There never was perhaps a gentleman in a public character as a teacher, whose resignation was more regretted than that of this worthy divine, who had filled that important station for a period of thirty-seven years with the utmost dignity. November 1810, an elegant mural monument, by Flaxman, with a latin inscription from the classical pen of sir William Scott (afterwards lord Stowell), was placed in St. Mary's porch, in St. Nicholas' church, Newcastle, in memory of this eminent divine.—*Mon. Mag., &c.*



1806.—About this period, the remains of a Roman sudatory or bath was discovered at Binchester, in the south of Durham, the *Vinorium* of Antoninus. It is a subterraneous apartment, within the station, and yet remains in a very observable state. This station, or city, was celebrated for its pottery, and has proved a mine of antiquity. The accompanied engraving represents a stone found there, many bearing the figure of one of the *Fundatores* or slingers of the Roman army.—*Mackenzie and Ross' Dur., &c.*

July.—Died, Elizabeth Roberts, aged 99, relict of Hugh Roberts of Chester, who served many years in the 3rd regiment of foot. She was an eye witness of five different battles that her husband had been in. Her strength did not fail her to the last. She had thirteen children, thirty-five grand-children, and thirteen great grand-children. *Univ. Mag.*

July.—A ploughman, while at work in a field near Lumley, struck his plough upon the top of an old earthen pot, which was found to contain several pieces of silver coin, of the reign of queen Elizabeth, in a fine state of preservation.—*Ibid.*

July.—Died, George Wakefield, esq., of Wakefield house near North Shields, a partner in the Northumberland bank. On the Wednesday preceding his death he was confirmed by the bishop, with his children in St. Nicholas' church, Newcastle, having lately left the society of quakers, and joined the established church.—*Ibid.*

September 10.—Arrived in Newcastle, on a tour through the British islands, their most serene highnesses, Prince Frederick Au-

gustus and Prince Paul George of Holstein Oldenburgh, attended by Count Holmar and Baron Maltzahn.—*Local Papers*.

1806 (Sep. 11).—Died, in London, the rev. John Brand, M. A., rector of the united parishes of St. Mary at Hill, and St. Andrew Hubbard, in the city of London, and resident secretary to the Society of Antiquaries. Mr. Brand, was born on August 19, 1744, at Washington, in the county of Durham, where his father, Alexander Brand, was parish clerk. His mother dying immediately after his birth, and his father having married again, he was taken, when a child, under the protection of his maternal uncle, Anthony Wheatley, cordwainer, residing in the Back-row, Newcastle, to whom he was bound apprentice on September 4, 1758.



HOUSE IN THE BACK-ROW, IN WHICH BRAND RESIDED.

Mr. Brand was educated at the Royal Grammar-school, in that town, under the able direction of the rev. Hugh Moises, where he acquired a taste for classical pursuits; and his sedentary employment being favourable to mental exertion, he continued so ardent and indefatigable in the pursuit of knowledge, as to secure the esteem and friendship of his former worthy master, Mr. Moises, who interested some opulent friends in his behalf, and assisted in sending him to Oxford. He was entered at Lincoln college, where he took his bachelor's degree, and having been ordained, he became curate of Bolam, in Northumberland. June, 1773, Mr. Brand was presented to the curacy of St. Andrew's, in Newcastle. October 16th, 1774, he was presented to the curacy of Cramlington, in Northumberland, by Matthew Ridley, esq. May the 29th, the same year, he was

elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, London. While at the university, he published a poem "On Illicit Love, written among the ruins of Godstow Nunnery;" and in 1777, he published "Observations on Popular Antiquities, including the whole of Mr. Brand's *Antiquitates Vulgares*, with Addenda to every Chapter of that Work; as also, an Appendix, containing such articles on the Subject as have been omitted by that Author," 8vo. This work he continued to enlarge and improve till his death, when a new edition was published, in two vols. 4to., by Mr. Ellis. In 1784, he removed to the rectory of St. Mary at Hill, and St. Andrew Hubbard, London, and in 1786, was appointed one of the domestic chaplains to the duke of Northumberland. June 14th, 1787, at a meeting of the common council in Newcastle, the corporation was pleased to grant to Mr. Brand the honour of dedicating to that body his History of Newcastle, then about to be published by subscription. May 16th, 1789, Mr. Brand announced that his "History of Newcastle was published, price three guineas, embellished with thirty-four views of the public buildings, &c., engraved by Mr. Fittler." This valuable work is in two vols. 4to.; the engravings, it is said, cost £500, but the want of a good index is much to be regretted. A small portrait of Mr. Brand is given in the title-page of this work.*—*Gent's. Mag.*, &c.

1806 (Sep. 23).—Died, at Eshe, in the parish of Lanchester, John Hunter, who, according to his own account, corroborated by the parish register of Chester-le-Street, completed his 106th year the previous April.—*Local Papers*.

October 14.—The foundation stone of the New Quay and Market-place, at North Shields, was laid, under a triple discharge of nine pieces of ordnance. His grace the duke of Northumberland's bailiff for Tynemouthshire, David Stephenson, esq., architect, and a vast concourse of spectators, attended. The ships in the harbour also displayed their colours on the occasion.—*Ibid*.

December 3.—A very alarming fire broke out in the workshop of Mr. John Anderson, joiner and cabinet maker, in the Bigg-market,

* At the sale of the library of the rev. J. Brand, at Stewart's Rooms, in Piccadilly, Dr. Gossett was examining a copy of a Latin dictionary, in three volumes, folio, which he wished to purchase. During his examination, he found two leaves fastened together in such a way to give him some trouble to separate them, when he discovered carefully enclosed a bank-note of £50 and a portrait of "Margaret Smith, widow of sir Thomas Carye." The doctor instantly communicated the intelligence to Mr. Stewart; and after the dictionary was sold, the particulars were made known in the sale-room, and the print was put up for sale. Caulfield, the printseller, bid as far as £24 10s., and a Mr. Lloyd became the purchaser at 25 guineas. Mr. Brand's executors insisted on presenting Dr. Gossett with the book, which was bought for that purpose by Mr. Stewart at seven guineas. *J. Bell's Col.*

Newcastle, which raged with great fury for nearly an hour, laying the workshop in ruins, and partially injuring an adjoining dwelling-house, before the fire was got under.—*Local Papers*.

1806 (Dec. 10).—Died, at Gainford, in the county of Durham, where he had resided for many years, the humble but industrious antiquary, John Cade. He was born at Darlington in 1734, and acquired in queen Elizabeth's Free Grammar-school there Latin enough "to read a legend on a coin, or an inscription on a gravestone." At an early age he was placed in the house of a wholesale linen-draper in London, where he rose by honest industry from the lowest situation in the warehouse, to the first in the counting-house; after which he was admitted a partner into a branch of the business in Dublin. Individuals endowed with a literary turn, however limited their acquirements, and however humble their pretensions, are seldom, I believe, vassals to the daemon of avarice; and Cade, as soon as he had acquired a very moderate competence, relinquished trade for ever, and retired about 1775, first to Durham, and afterwards, about 1785, to Gainford, where his leisure, till within a very few years of his death, was unceasingly devoted to topographical pursuits. He explored Roman roads, illustrated stations, *suo more*, and above all employed himself in the amusing labour of *illustration*. Cade's last years were passed under the pressure of severe infirmity. Nearly sixteen years before his death a paralytic stroke deprived him of the use of his lower limbs, and confined him entirely to bed. In this lamentable state he preserved the most equable frame of mind. His mental faculties and memory were not affected, and he received the visits of his friends with kindness and cheerfulness. His very latest years were devoted almost entirely to preparations for a future state. To his kind friend George Allan, esq., of Grange, on one of his last visits, Cade presented the Poly Olbion, Harding's Chronicle, Knight's Erasmus, and Clarendon. All his illustrated books of antiquities he had, he said, sent as a present to the son of his early benefactor in business, who, one is sorry to add, sold the volumes in Cade's lifetime. His reading was henceforth confined to religious subjects; and if he derived no very clear or actual theological knowledge from the vast mass of tracts and sermons which he devoured, yet were his individual views clear and cheerful, and he awaited his dissolution with firm resignation and unshaken reliance on his Saviour. He died at Gainford, and was interred with his parents at Darlington.—*Surtees*.

December 12.—Died, in Gateshead, the rev. John Baillie, aged 66 years. Mr. Baillie had been fourteen years minister of Sally-port chapel, in Newcastle. He published, besides several detached sermons, "Lectures on the Revelations," "History of the French War

from 1791 to 1802," and "An Impartial History of Newcastle upon Tyne, 1801," all in 8vo.—*Mackenzie*.

1806 (Dec. 21).—About ten o'clock on the morning, one of the arches of Haydon bridge, about ninety-five feet in span, which had long shewn evident signs of weakness and decay, fell with a tremendous crash, just at the time a number of people were passing to church. One unfortunate man sunk with the ruins to the depth of forty feet, but was taken out alive with a broken thigh bone, and otherwise much bruised.—*Local Papers*

December 25.—A furious storm of wind from the west was experienced in Newcastle and its neighbourhood. About noon, accompanied with rain, it became an absolute hurricane, in some places breaking down trees, in others tearing them up by the roots. In Newcastle, the massy boards composing the butcher's stalls in the old flesh market, were blown about in every direction; and the wood work of the vicarage pump, in Westgate-street, was torn away. Several stacks of chimneys fell; one in the Spital, broke through the roof of a house into the apartments. At Acomb, near Hexham, a spark was blown from a chimney, and set a stack on fire. The violence of the wind baffled every effort to extinguish the flames, all the stacks in the yard were burnt, and unfortunately the fire extended to the neighbouring cottages, about ten of which were reduced to ashes. The great circular west window in the tower of Shields church was blown in, during the time of administering the holy sacrament; and the organ, standing near the window was in imminent danger of being overturned. Many houses in Dockwray-square were damaged in their roofs, and one man nearly killed by the falling of a stack of chimneys.—*Ibid.*

December.—Bishopwearmouth church being much too small to contain the increased population of the place, and having become ruinous, the parishioners came to a resolution of re-building it. It is raised on the old foundations. The chancel was opened for divine service in 1808, and the whole work finished in 1810. At the same time a new burial ground was purchased, and, being enlarged by a parcel of the bishop's waste, was consecrated August 9th, 1810.—*Surtees*.

The church of Long-Newton, in the county of Durham, was, this year, almost wholly re-built.—*Ibid.*

This year, the church of Redmarshall, in the county of Durham, was repaired, and the lead removed.—*Ibid.*

This year the tolbooth and shambles at Barnard-castle, were removed, and the ground on which they stood added to the market-place. The market-cross, now called the town-hall, was at the same

time fitted up with a commodious room in the upper part, for holding the courts of the earl of Darlington, the monthly meetings of the magistrates, and other business of the township. Two shot-holes in the vane record the dexterity of one of the Barnard Castle volunteers, named Taylor, and Cruddas, game-keeper to the earl of Strathmore. This feat occurred in 1804; and they fired from opposite the door of the Turk's Head, in the Market-place, at more than one hundred yards distance from the town-hall.—*J. Gibson's MS., &c.*



TOWN-HALL, BARNARD CASTLE.

1806.—The Scotch church, North Sunderland, founded. The register of births extending from 1806, to 1838.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

1807 (Feb. 28).—The new butcher market, on the south side of the High bridge, Newcastle, was opened for business.—*Local Papers.*

February.—The famous Durham ox was slaughtered. He was bred by Mr. Charles Colling, at Ketton, in 1796, and was supposed to weigh one hundred and sixty eight stones, when exhibited as a show in 1801, by Mr. Bulmer, who purchased him for £140., and in the same year sold him to Mr. John Day, for £250. This enormous animal, for which £2,000 was refused by Day, was exhibited for nearly six years in all parts of England and Scotland. When slaughtered he weighed two hundred and twenty stones.—*Guide to Dinsdale.*

March 11.—As a loaded coal cart, with two horses, were being backed to the door of a house near the top of the steps, leading from St. Nicholas' church-yard, in Newcastle; the cart, coals, horses, and man, were precipitated in a moment into Dean-street, a fall of not less than thirty feet, without receiving any material injury.—*Local Papers.*

March.—A woman named Hodgson, was at this period, residing in

a cottage on the Beaufront estate, near Hexham, at the great age of 105, years; in the full possession of her faculties, and in perfectly good health.—*Local Papers*.

1807 (April 8).—Died, at North Shields, Margaret Glanton, aged 100 years.—*Ibid*.

April 30.—About one o'clock in the morning, a fire broke out in the steam corn mill, belonging to Mr. John Crawford, near the high end of North Shields, which totally destroyed the same, as well as a small house on the opposite side of the street. The damage was estimated at £5,000.—*Ibid*.

This month, died at a village near Liverpool, the rev. George Walker, F. R. S., professor of Theology at the new college, and president of the philosophical and literary society of Manchester. Mr. Walker was born at Newcastle, in the year 1735.—*Ibid*.

May 1.—A tremendous thunder storm visited Newcastle and its neighbourhood. The electric fluid entered the dwelling-house of Mr. Jopling, marble mason, in Pilgrim-street, and did considerable damage to the rooms and to the furniture. Providentially no person was hurt, although Mrs. J. and several children were in a small room through which the lightning passed. A horse was killed at Hebburn, in a stable. A man standing on a pit heap, near the shaft of Urpeth colliery, had both his shoes torn from his feet, without receiving any personal hurt whatever. Great damage was also done in other parts of the country.—*Ibid*.

Died, this year, at Richardson's stead, near Berwick, Ann Ferguson, pauper, 107. She never used spectacles, and till within a year of her death, washed and mended her own clothes.—*Mon. Mag*.

May 5.—Was established "The South Shields Public Subscription Brewery," being, as is believed, the first joint stock establishment in the north of England. The capital of the company was £10,000, divided into five hundred shares of £20. each.—*Deed of Settlement*.

June 21.—A remarkable large eel, measuring 35 inches in length, 7½ inches girth over the shoulder, and weighing four pounds, was taken out of a small well in the village of Morwick, in Northumberland. The well did not exceed six feet in depth, and scarcely measured three feet in diameter, and had no visible communication with any river or pond. When first discovered, it was sporting on the surface of the water.—*Local Papers*.

July.—A sparrow built its nest at the top of the main-stay of the Gainsborough packet, lying at Newcastle quay, and deposited in it five eggs.—*Ibid*.

August 11.—Died, in Northumberland-street, Newcastle, Elizabeth

Bickett, aged 103 years. Being a water carrier, she for many years enjoyed the title of "*Queen of the Pant.*"—*Local Papers.*

1807 (Sep. 5).—A cold wind from the N. E., accompanied with a heavy and incessant rain during the whole day and night, produced so remarkable a swell in the river Tyne, at Newcastle, that next morning (Sunday), the beautiful little island, called the King's meadows, was under water. Large masses of grain in sheaf, (wheat, rye, barley and oats,) came floating down, and several coal-keels, which put off for the purpose, got their loading with part of the wreck. A whole field of oats, the property of Mr. Forster, of Newburn-hall, valued at £300., was entirely swept away; and at several other places, along the banks of the river, similar losses were sustained. At Hexham, the united force of the wind and rain tore up several trees by the roots; and the low grounds near the town were covered with various descriptions of wreck. In a broad, but confined part of the north Tyne, near Haughton castle, the river was observed to obtain a rise of at least fifteen feet beyond its usual bounds.—*Ibid.*

September 29.—The foundation stone of the new light house, near the centre of the front of Dockwray's square, North Shields, was laid; at the same time the corporation of the Trinity house of Newcastle, contracted with the right honourable lord Collingwood for another piece of ground in the angle of the Low-light quay, for another light-house.—*Ibid.*

This month, a shark eight feet long, and weighing about three hundred pounds, was taken in the fishermen's nets at Whitburn, and afterwards taken to Newcastle. When opened, upwards of one hundred and thirty herrings and other small fish were found in its stomach.—*Ibid.*

October 7.—Earl Percy arrived at Durham and took up his freedom in the butchers' company, to which he was entitled by patrimony. The noble earl ordered an elegant dinner at the Wheat sheaf for his brethren of the trade. January 1808, a large and elegant silver punch bowl, the gift of earl Percy, was presented to the company, on which occasion, the company, with several other respectable gentlemen, held a meeting at the lord Nelson tavern, for the purpose of drinking the health of the noble donor.—*Ibid.*

November 10.—The foundation stone of the new church at Wall's end was laid in the presence of a numerous and respectable assemblage of spectators. After which, an elegant and appropriate address was delivered by the rev. Joseph Ireland. April 27th, 1809, this church and burial ground were consecrated by Thomas Burgess, D.D., lord bishop of St. David's. A most excellent sermon was preached by the rev. Henry Phillpotts, (now bishop of Exeter) after

which Mr. Shaw sung a beautiful piece of sacred music. The number of people present was computed at one thousand five hundred, and the services of the day were conducted in a very solemn manner. The Wallsend rifle corps lined the passage to the church.—*Local Papers.*



WALLSEND OLD CHURCH (1813).

November 12.—There was a heavy fall of sleet and snow in Newcastle and its neighbourhood, which found its way even through solid brick walls exposed to the direct influence of the wind, and many houses were deluged. Almost all the shops and the lower stories of the houses on the north side of the Sandhill, and the Close, were overflowed from the high banks behind, and much damage was done. The cellars and kitchens of the houses in Pandon were filled, and great loss was experienced from the overflowing of the Ouseburn. The quay, to the extent of one hundred yards, which was built by Messrs. Hind and Co., was swept away by the current, and great damage was done to the houses and warehouses situated on the banks of that rivulet. Part of an unfinished house, near the churchway, North Shields, was blown down, and a part of the ruins penetrated an adjoining house, but happily no person was injured. The snow did not lie very thick in the neighbourhood of Newcastle, but westward of Hexham, and in the high lands about Alston, the roads were impassable. The storm unhappily proved fatal to Mr. James, farmer near Haltwhistle, who was out in the fields on horseback looking after his sheep, and was found dead not far from his own house, lying on his back, and his horse standing near him.—*Ibid.*

November 14.—Died, at Fallowden-house, in Northumberland, in the 79th year of his age, the right honourable Charles earl Grey, viscount Howick, and baron Grey de Howick, a general in the army, governor of Guernsey, and colonel in the 3rd regiment of dragoons. His lordship served at the battle of Minden, and was the only surviving

officer who served under general Wolfe at Quebec, to whom he was Aid-de-Camp. In 1782, he was made a knight of the Bath, on his appointment as commander in chief in America; but in consequence of peace being concluded, he did not proceed thither. He served also at the relief of Ostend and Nieuport, in 1793; and went, soon after, to the West Indies, as commander in chief, with the earl of St. Vincent, which was followed by the reduction of Martinique, St. Lucie, and Guadaloupe. In 1802, he was created baron Grey: and on the 1st of April, 1806, his lordship was created earl Grey. In addition to the honours granted him by his sovereign for his many eminent services to his country during his military career, he received the thanks of both houses of parliament, and the corporation of London presented him with the freedom of the city in a gold box.—*Satirist, &c.*

1807 (Nov. 17).—The officers of the Percy Tenantry Cavalry presented their colonel, the right honourable earl Percy, at Alnwick castle, with a most magnificent and highly-finished sabre, with a Damascus blade, and on the scabbard was embossed in basso relievo, on one side, the various armorial bearings of the Percy family; on the converse, military trophies under different forms.—*Local Papers.*

December 17.—The warehouses attached to the glass-house at South Shields, occupied by Messrs. Shortridge, Russell, and Barras, were completely destroyed by fire.—*Ibid.*

December 27.—Buried, at Bellingham, Northumberland, Edward Coulson, of Haydon-bridge, an eccentric character, and remarkable for his athletic and pedestrian feats.—*Mem. of E. C.*

December 29.—Three prisoners made their escape from the gaol in Newcastle, viz. John Willis, John Blakelock, and David Miller. Their efforts to break out of confinement had been continued for some time previous to their escape, as the north wall, through which they retreated, was at least a yard and a quarter in thickness, composed of immense masses of freestone. So silent and secret were their proceedings, that no suspicion was entertained by the gaoler or his assistants, and at the usual hour of inspection and locking up by the turnkey, on the very evening of their escape, all had the appearance of being orderly and safe; their fetters seemed to be as firm as when first put upon the prisoners, and no flaw was observed in the wall. It appeared that the fragments of the wall, which had been removed in the intervals of time between the stated visits of the turnkey, had been so artfully replaced as to elude detection, and the fetters had been cut asunder by implements conveyed to them. The blankets, by which they had descended, were found upon a dung-hill below.—*Local Papers.*

December 30.—A stone coffin, about six feet in length, was dug

up in the old church at Hexham, on the north side of the place where the altar has stood. It had a thick stone cover, but no inscription whatever, nor any thing in the inside, excepting the bones of a dove entire, and some small pieces of glass, apparently gilt, but much worn off.—*Mon. Mag.*

1807 (Feb).—Died, at Cullercoats, near Tynemouth, John Ramsay, mariner, aged 115 years. He served in the capacity of cabin-boy on board one of the ships, in sir George Rooke's squadron at the taking of Gibraltar, in 1704. He retained all his faculties till within a few days of his death.—*Ibid.*

The Scale or Kale Cross, which stood at the foot of the Side, Newcastle, was, this year, taken down in order to widen and improve the street. It was presented by the corporation to its donor, sir Matthew White Ridley, bart., and was set up in his grounds at Blagdon.—*Local Rec.*



SIDE, NEWCASTLE (1807).

The Wesleyan methodist chapel, North Shields, (parishes of Tynemouth and Earsdon) founded. The registers of births and baptisms 632 entries, extending from 1807 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

1808 (Jan. 2).—The first number of the Berwick Advertiser newspaper, was published by Mr. Henry Richardson.—*Local Rec.*

January 14.—The crews of five boats belonging to Newbigging,

Blyth, and Hartley, and consisting in all of nineteen men, perished in a violent storm at sea. One family belonging to Newbigging, and of the name of Robinson, lost their father, three of his sons, and two nephews. This accident strongly excited the public sympathy, and collections and subscriptions to the amount of £1701. were raised for the benefit of the families of the sufferers—to the judicious distribution of which, a committee of gentlemen, of whom the late rev. John Smith, vicar of Newcastle, was an active member, paid great and meritorious attention.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

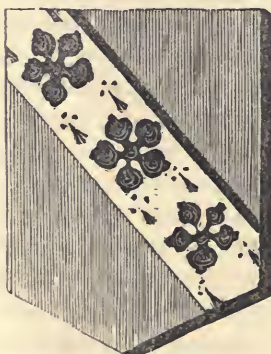
1808 (Jan. 19).—Died, Robert Melville, of South Shields, aged 103 years. He was a member of the Society of Friends.—*Local Papers.*

January 28.—Died, at Lowry's mill, near Bellingham, Mr. William Robley, aged upwards of 100 years, 70 of which he lived at Smalesmouth, in the same neighbourhood, as farmer and publican, and was much esteemed for his jokes and merry catches.—*Gent's Mag.*



1808 (March 30).—Died, at an advanced age, sir Henry Grey, bart. He was the elder brother of the late earl Grey, and uncle to the present; he never was married, and by his death earl Grey became possessed of estates to the value of near £30,000. per annum, besides a fortune for each of his younger children. Sir Henry left large legacies to each of his lordship's brethren and sisters, and made all his old servants comfortable for the remainder of their lives. On the 18th

of April, sir Henry's remains, in great funeral solemnity, passed through Newcastle, for interment in the family vault at Howick.—*Mon. Mag.*



March 31.—Died, in Newcastle, in his 89th year, Robert Roddam, of Roddam, in Northumberland, esq., senior admiral of the red. He was the son of Edward Roddam of Roddam and Little Houghton, esq., by Jane, daughter of Robert Shelly, esq., born at Richmond, and a merchant of Newcastle upon Tyne. April 24th, 1749, Admiral Roddam married Lucy Mary, daughter of the honourable admiral Clinton, uncle to the earl of Lincoln. She died at

New York in America, December 9, 1750, aged twenty-two.—*Mackenzie's Northd.*

1808 (April 13).—The first stone of an elegant new hall, in the market-place at Darlington, was laid by George Allan, esq., of Blackwell Grange, George Lewis Hollingsworth, esq., and Richard Hodgson, esq., of Darlington, on which occasion a great number of gentlemen were assembled. The bells were rung, and there were great rejoicings, throughout the day.—*Local Papers*.

April 19.—Being Easter Tuesday afternoon, the holyday people at the Forth, Newcastle, were disturbed in the enjoyment of their annual amusements by an affray of rather a serious nature, between some boys and a party of recruits of the Wiltshire militia. The boys, according to annual custom, were amusing themselves with a game at foot ball in the interior of the Forth, when the soldiers, no doubt for the sake of fun, interrupted them in the diversion, by running after them and tripping up their heels. The boys being reinforced by their friends, and encouraged by another party of military, set upon their opponents manfully, and with stones, brick bats, and other missiles, kept up such a determined discharge, that they compelled their antagonists, though superior in numbers, to seek their safety in a precipitate retreat. Luckily the scene of action being near the Infirmary, the wounded were conveyed thither. Two men received severe, but not dangerous, wounds on the head; the other accidents were mostly slight.—*Ibid*.

April 21.—Died, in the workhouse of St. Nicholas' parish, Durham, Ann Angus, aged upwards of 100 years.—*Ibid*.

April 26.—The new parade ground, in Percy-street, Newcastle, was opened for the first time on the evening of the above day, by the Newcastle volunteers, who were inspected there by colonel Rawdon.—*Ibid*.

April 27.—A very alarming fire broke out in the bark-mill belonging to Mr. Isaac Richardson, in his tan-yard near the White Cross, in Newgate-street, Newcastle, which raged with such violence, that in less than half-an-hour the mill fell with a tremendous crash, setting fire to four hay-stacks in an adjoining yard, two of which were entirely consumed, and the others very much damaged. At the commencement it seemed to threaten the whole of the buildings in the yard and its vicinity with destruction; but from the great exertions of the firemen belonging to the engines of the town, together with the assistance of the engine belonging the barracks on the town-moor, the flames were happily got under without further damage. There was a very large quantity of oil in the premises adjoining the mill, which, had the flames once caught, would certainly have laid the whole neighbourhood in ashes. The fire, it was ascertained, originated through the carelessness of the person who had charge of the

mill. On carrying some fire to his room on the previous night, he had dropped part of the hot coals amongst the bark, which continued burning until the morning, when it burst forth in the greatest fury imaginable. The loss was estimated at about £2000. No part of the property was insured.—*Newc. Papers.*



Houses at the entrance to Richardson's Tanyard.

1808 (May 4).—Died, in St. Giles'-gate, Durham, in his 96th year, William Cloyd. Among the many eccentric tricks of his youth, he once undertook to descend upon a rope from the steeple of St. Giles's church to the Bower Banks adjoining, and accomplished it unhurt. In 1739 he was with admiral Vernon at the taking of Porto Bello and Carthagen. In 1742 he was deprived of his eyesight by lightning upon the African coast; and after that became famous for dressing sheeps' feet which proved a very profitable trade to him, and enabled him to procure his quantum of ale, of which he consumed no small quantity. At cards and bowling matches Cloyd was generally one of the foremost, and frequently betted very freely. He enjoyed, in general, a very good state of health; and within the last twenty years has been seen to run round the feet of a large stool, turned topsy turvy, with his boots on. About twenty-six years ago, he was at a bowling match on Gilesgate moor, when a violent altercation arose about the position of the bowls; when Cloyd, starting from the crowd, cried out, "lead me to the place where the bowls are," on his arrival there, after groping awhile for the bowls, he cried out, "Any body may see that bowl is first." This created a loud laugh, and put all the parties in good humour again. About 18 years ago, he re-

ceived one of Hetherington's benefactions of ten pounds a year to blind men, upon which he subsisted till his death.—*Gent's. Mag.*

1808 (May 17).—Died, John Lord Delaval, of Seaton Delaval, in Northumberland, aged 80 years. June 3rd, the corpse passed through Newcastle, for London, in great funeral pomp. The coffin was decorated with heraldic devices &c.—*Local Papers.*

May 15.—Sunday, died at Hebburn, the rev. William Glover, curate of Jarrow with Heworth; and on Tuesday following May, 17, when the rev. Richard Robinson, curate of Boldon, was going to bury for him, he suddenly died.—*Newc. Cour.*

This month, in digging into a mound of earth adjoining the south side of the ruins of Tynemouth priory, a capacious cemetery, or arched tomb, was discovered; some human bones of a large size, and skulls, were found on the floor, a few of them very perfect. It is not known that this place has been opened since the dissolution of the priory in 1539. During the siege of Tynemouth Castle, by Cromwell, above a century after that period king Charles the First's troops erected a battery, a little to the southward of this cemetery; the site yet remains pretty perfect. It appears they had dug out much earth to raise the battery, and had left off within six feet of the entrance into this cemetery.—*Mon. Mag.*

1808 (May).—Died, at Newcastle, Mr. William Temple, weaver, many years foreman in Kidd's sail-cloth manufactory, and latterly governor of All Saints' poor-house. By a close and regular application of the few hours afforded from a laborious occupation, he had acquired an astonishing proficiency in most of the eastern languages, particularly the Hebrew, Arabic, and Persian; with the Greek and Latin, and some of the modern languages he was also well acquainted. The study of the original scriptures, with their various translations, was the object of his unwearied pursuit for a number of years, and few possessed equal talents for biblical criticism. With many of the peculiarities of a self-taught scholar he enjoyed a remarkable activity of mind and strength of understanding. He derived much pleasure from directing and assisting the studies of young persons, and not a few are indebted to him for his gratuitous instructions. Conscious of his own mental acquirements, and the rectitude of his moral principles, he indignantly spurned the pride and affectation of the wealthy, but the man of talents, or of moral worth, alike shared his friendship and assistance.—*Ibid.*

June 4.—In honour of his majesty's birth day, the new town's clock, placed on the top of the Subscription Library, at North Shields, was first set in motion. The ships in the harbour displayed their colours, and immediately on the clock striking twelve, twenty-one guns

were fired. Clifford's fort, the Spanish battery, and Tynemouth castle, also fired royal salutes. The clock was made by the late ingenious John Bolton, of Chester-le-Street.

At Newcastle, the day was ushered in by peals of bells from the several churches. At twelve o'clock, the Newcastle volunteers were formed upon the Sandhill, and fired three volleys in honour of the day. In consequence of the 4th of June falling on Saturday, his majesty's birth-day was celebrated by the military in the counties of Northumberland and Durham, on the Monday following. On Sunday several regiments marched into Newcastle and the neighbourhood, for the purpose of being present at the two next days' brigades, and on Monday, the troops assembled on the occasion were drawn up in two columns, the one in Northumberland-street and the other in Westgate street, and in that order marched to the Town-moor, where they were reviewed by lieutenant-general Dundas. The troops were formed in two lines, under the command of major-general Johnstone; the first line comprising the following regiments: four troops of the Enniskillen dragoons, the Gibside cavalry, the Axwell Park ditto, the Tyne legion ditto, a brigade of artillery, the East York militia, the Newcastle volunteer infantry, the North Shields and Tynemouth ditto, the Hexham and Corbridge ditto, the Newcastle associated ditto, and the Wallsend rifle corps. The second line consisted of a brigade of artillery, the Wiltshire militia, the Sunderland volunteer infantry, the Tyne legion ditto, the Gateshead ditto, and the Sunderland volunteer artillery. The two lines together formed upwards of 5,000 men. The business of the field being over, the troops were formed into a column of sections, and proceeded to their several parades in the town. On Tuesday morning, the two columns were ordered to assemble at six o'clock, in order to proceed by different routes to Throckley Fell, about eight miles from Newcastle; the right column under the command of lieutenant-general Dundas, and the left under the command of major-general Johnstone. During the march, a brigade of artillery joined the left column at Fenham, by which means a communication was kept up between the heads of the columns, by the firing of signal guns. The Wallsend rifle corps formed the advanced guard of the right column, and the Gateshead light company of the left column, who were joined by the light company of the Wiltshire militia, when the column entered on the Fell. The columns arrived at their places of destination within a few minutes of each other, and, as soon as the first was formed, the left column took up a position in its rear, ready to advance to its support. The ground occupied by the left of the second line was very much broken, the men being, for the greater part of the movements, up to

their waists in whins. The firing of the first line soon commenced, and the second line was ordered to file from the right of companies, and advanced to its support; having formed and fired, the second line retreated past the first, the retreat being covered by the light troops. After having alternately advanced and retreated several times, the second line by an *eschellon* movement, formed on the left of the first, and by that means presented a single line, extending upwards of a mile and a half. It then fired by companies from centre to flanks, by wings, and by battalions. The whole being formed into open column of subdivisions, crossed the Fell, and passed along the east side, covered by the Wallsend rifle and Gateshead light company, where the line was again formed, and fired by battalions. The line afterwards wheeled into open column of sections, and retreated from off the Fell, covered as before by the light troops. The whole then proceeded on their march to Newcastle, where they arrived about five o'clock. The next day the troops were highly complimented in the general orders that were issued.—*Local Papers*.

1808 (June 20).—Died, at the foot of the Manor chare, Newcastle, Mrs. Mary Graham, aged 104 years.—*Ibid*.

About this time, the remains of a fine sudatory were discovered at Whitley castle, Northumberland, at its north-east corner, out of which issued a clear and plentiful spring. In September, 1810, many of the pillars of the hypocaustum were standing, covered with large thin slabs of freestone, and a strong calcareous cement.—*Hodgson's Northd.*



CHAPTER IV.



N the month of June, 1808, James Guy, a shepherd, in the service of Mr. Archbold of Heton, Northumberland, in the act of skinning a sheep which had died of disease, and was at the time in a state of putrescence, accidentally cut one of his fingers with the knife. The effect of the poisonous matter was astonishing. Going home in the evening, he complained to his wife "that he had inoculated himself, and he already began to

feel the bad consequences of it over all that side of his body on which the finger was cut." At five next morning medical assistance was sent for, but no kind of relief could be given; and with such rapidity did the mortific matter attack his system, that he became a corpse, in the highest degree of putridity, by 11 that day, being less than twenty-four hours from the introduction of the matter.

—*Gent's. Mag.*

July 18.—A whale was towed into Shields by a sloop, which found it floating near Holy Island. On being cut up, its jaw bones were found broken, caused, it is supposed by striking against rocks.—

Local Papers.

July 19.—The elegant and commodious Catholic college and seminary at Ushaw, near Durham, was opened for the reception of students, by the ecclesiastics of the ancient English college of Douay. The buildings, which are of stone, form a spacious quadrangle.—*Ibid.*

Same day, died, at North Shields, Mrs. Jane Orean, aged 102 years.—*Ibid.*

July 23.—Died, at Whitfield, in Northumberland, Mrs. Isabella Mandeville, relict of the rev. Richard Mandeville, formerly curate of

that parish, aged upwards of 100 years. She had been for some time before her death both blind and speechless.—*Local Papers.*

1808 (July).—A Jew found a noble of Henry IV., date 1399, amongst the rubbish of an old house, then pulling down in North Shields' Market-place. It was of pure gold, the impression perfect, and weighed 90 grains.—*Ibid.*

August 1.—Died, in the Wall-knoll, Newcastle, Mrs. Dorothy Turnbull, in the 107th year of her age. She was born on the 4th of July, 1702, in the reign of queen Ann, and until within three days of her death, possessed her faculties in an amazing degree. Her memory being little impaired, she could relate, with astonishing exactness, a variety of events which happened during the rebellion in 1715, and almost every subsequent event of any importance. About a month before her death, she made herself a petticoat without the aid of spectacles, when she was heard to observe, that "*she had lived to such an age, that Newcastle could not furnish her with a pair to assist her sight.*" On the Friday preceding her death, she walked to Low Friar-street, where she drank tea with a friend, who lived in the curious old house with the ornamented front, but before returning home, she grew very low spirited, and seemed conscious of her approaching dissolution; the next day, she was confined to her bed, and on the Monday her existence was terminated.—*Ibid.*

August 8.—Newcastle and its neighbourhood were visited by one of the most awful thunder storms ever remembered. The flashes of lightning were terrific in the extreme. The house of Mrs. Raisbeck, in Westgate-street, Newcastle, was very much damaged. The lightning struck the back part, entered the usual dining-room of the family, shivered a door to pieces, and drove the fragments along the passage into the front room, tore the plaster off the wall, and damaged some of the furniture. Several of the bell-wires in the house were melted, and a black mark of considerable depth left along the walls where they were. Some of the windows were shattered to pieces, and a hole was driven through a thick chimney wall, where the lightning had struck upon a nail. Mrs. Raisbeck and her daughter had a most providential escape, having removed from the room where the principal damage occurred a short time before, to avoid the glare of the lightning. In the next house, occupied by Mr. Jobling, some of the bell-wires were melted, windows broken, and the top of a bed-post struck off. A painter at work in the inside of the house, next door to Mr. Jobling's, was struck down, but being bled, he recovered. Some tiles were taken off Mr. Leighton's house on the opposite side of the street, but no other damage was sustained than that caused by the torrent of rain which rushed in. Two men at work in the neigh-

bouring chapel were thrown against each other by the shock, but not much hurt. The house of Mr. Farrington, in the Bigg-market, was also struck, and the bell-wires of two rooms and of the staircase melted. The common sewer at the head of the Side was so full charged with water in consequence of the heavy rain, that the pavement was forced up for several yards, and the water issued from the aperture for a considerable time, as if thrown from an engine. The lightning struck the house of James Losh, esq., at Jesmond, in two places. The funnel on the top of the library chimney was broken in pieces, thence it passed down the chimney into the library, throwing down the soot, and singing the hearth-rug. It also entered by a window on the stair-head, struck a barometer hanging by the side of the window, which it shivered to pieces, passed along all the bell-wires, and went round the gilt frame of a large picture in the drawing-room, which it completely tarnished, then pierced the wall a little above the chimney-piece, and disappeared. A large rent was likewise made in the wall, communicating with a closet in the kitchen, the lock of the door forced off, and two balls of fire appeared to the servants to fall on the kitchen floor, and escape by the door. Fortunately no one was hurt, although part of the family were on the stair-head when the barometer was broken, and the servants were in the kitchen when the fire passed through it. Mr. Maddison's house, at Birtley, was struck, the funnels thrown from the chimneys, several windows with their frames torn in pieces, and the coping-stones on the gable end of the house carried to a considerable distance. At Lunley, near Chester-le-street, the lightning entered the roof of a house, and killed a woman in the lower room. Mr. John Sheradon, of Houghton-gate, had a cow killed in a field near that place. Mr. Kirkup, of Urpeth had seven lambs killed near his house. The lightning entered the roof of the house of John Cole, at High Chater's-haugh, and forced off the head of the clock, and broke it to pieces; it then went up the chimney, without doing any further damage. At Dipton, a horse and several sheep were killed in the fields. The Seven Stars public-house, on Gateshead Fell, was also struck; some cattle were also killed in that direction. Some women in a cart had a narrow escape, as the cart was much damaged. A windmill belonging to Mr. Hodgson, on the Leazes, near Newcastle, was struck, and two of the wands were completely shattered, and a large piece of iron carried to a considerable distance. As the daughter of Mr. Pollock, sign of the rose, Half-way-bank, between Shields and Newcastle, was standing at the back door, with a comb in her hand, the lightning struck the back of the comb, singed it, and curied up some of the teeth, without doing the least injury to the girl. A new smelting mill at Derwent-heads,

near Blanchland, was nearly swept away by the flood, together with a considerable quantity of lead ore.—*Local Papers*.

1808 (August 4).—This month, the White-cross, in Newgate-street, Newcastle, was carefully taken down, and removed to the new butcher-market, at the north end of which it was rebuilt, in a lengthened form, for the accommodation of persons attending the butter market. The annexed engraving shews the form of the cross previous to its removal from Newgate-street.—*Local Rec.*



WHITE CROSS, NEWCASTLE (1808).

September 1.—Martin O'Bryan was executed at Morpeth, pursuant to his sentence, for robbing and cutting the throat of Barbara Weir, upon Shields road.—*Local Papers*.

September 4.—There were great rejoicings at Newcastle, on the arrival of the news that sir Arthur Wellesley (the present duke of Wellington) had defeated the French under the command of general Junot, at Vimeira, in Portugal, on the 21st of the preceding month. This was the first engagement between the English and the French on the peninsula.—*Ibid.*

September 20.—Died, at Berwick, Mrs. Isabella Hounim, aged 104 years.—*Ibid.*

October 6.—Died, near Corbridge, Mrs. Hodgson, aged 105 years.—*Ibid.*

October.—This month, some workmen employed in lowering the foot-path, near the north-west porch of Monkwearmouth church, discovered the effigy of a Benedictine monk in his full habit, the hands clasped on the breast. The figure was placed in the chancel of the church.—*Surtees*.

November 3.—At four o'clock in the afternoon, his Majesty's ship,

Bucephalus, was launched from the building yard of Mr. William Row, at St. Peter's quay, near Newcastle. She was rated at thirty-two guns, but was pierced for fifty-two, and measured 970 tons. An immense concourse of spectators was present at the launch. The bells of St. Nicholas' church rung a merry peal in honour of the event. November 17, was launched from the same yard, a very handsome small ship of war, called the Woodlark.—*Local Papers*.

1808 (Nov. 8).—A dreadful fire took place at East Lilburn, in the parish of Eglingham, in Northumberland. As Mr. Brewis's servant was going to bed with a candle, about ten o'clock, either from a spark from the candle or not extinguishing it, the stable caught fire, and, melancholy to relate, ten horses were burnt to death, and the lad escaped with difficulty, without his clothes.—*Ibid*.

November 13.—A new Methodist chapel was opened at Durham, for public worship; the rev. Jabez Bunting, of Sheffield, preached to a crowded audience, from Psalm, xx. verse 4.—*Ibid*.

November 29.—An explosion took place in Harraton colliery, Durham, by which unfortunate occurrence four human beings and twenty-one horses lost their lives. The coal was set on fire by this explosion, and the shafts were tightly scaffolded to exclude the air, for the purpose of smothering the fire. The pits were opened at the end of two months, when the fire in the coal was found to be extinguished; but, to the astonishment of every body, a pony was found alive, and in high condition. This pony had a trick of slipping his halter, and wandering about the workings. The explosion happened just after the men had finished their day's work, and the horses, twenty-two in number, had been tied up in the stables. It was supposed that this pony had slipped his halter, and gone upon his rambles as usual, as all the remaining twenty-one horses were killed in the stables by the explosion. It would seem that the life of this pony had been preserved by the fresh air which was sent up in the rise part of the workings, and he had lived upon the forage of his dead companions. He survived the accident many years.—*Ibid*.

December 15.—A terrible fire broke out betwixt one and two o'clock on the morning of this day, in a kitchen, under the shop and parlour of George Carr, tallow-chandler, Hexham, which threatened destruction to a vast pile of buildings, and it was not known to the family above, until they were almost suffocated. Mrs. Carr, Miss Robson, and three of the children, threw themselves from the window of the room above the parlour, with very little injury. Two other children nearly suffocated, were taken from an upper room, by Mr. James Meston. The fire was occasioned, it was supposed, by a spark falling upon some linen upon a clothes horse.—*Ibid*.

1808 (Dec. 22).—A very alarming fire took place in the mansion of Charles John Brandling, esq., at Gosforth, exactly at the moment of the family sitting down to dinner, which was occasioned by the careless manner of joiners, in the erection of buildings, driving wooden plugs into the walls of the chimneys, for the purpose of fixing their joiner-work. In this case, the wooden plugs, to which the joiner-work of the elegant saloon was fixed, took fire, from the heated chimney of the library. However, the devouring element was happily discovered in time, and fortunately extinguished by the active exertions of the family and domestics, before any considerable damage was sustained.—*Local Papers*.

December 24.—Being Christmas eve, the clock which graces the tower of Durham cathedral first began to chime the quarters. It is the workmanship of the late ingenious John Bolton, and is put in motion by a clock which stands upon the ground floor, at a distance of above three hundred feet. This last, which was placed there by Dean Hunt and the chapter, in the year 1652, is a very elegant and curious piece of mechanism. It exhibits a view of the planets and their motions, and shews the variations of the moon; it points out the day of the month, and the moon's age, with several other curious exhibitions.—*Ibid*.

1808.—Nearly the whole of the old castle of Ravensworth, Durham, was taken down, and the present splendid mansion was begun on a plan furnished by Nash; the stile of the building is a selection from the castle architecture of various periods, not, however, too remote to be brought into contact; the various towers and facades produce pleasing combinations in every point of view, and the outline against the sky is extremely good. The castle has three fronts, north, south, and west; the eastern side is closed in by offices, and by rising plantations, destined to exclude the view of Gateshead Fell; two of the old towers are incorporated with the offices. On the private road



RAVENSWORTH OLD CASTLE 1783

near the castle there is a cross, a plain shaft and pedestal. The common tradition is, that when Newcastle in the reign of Elizabeth was infected with the plague, the country people left their provisions at this place for the supply of the town.—*Local Rec.*

1808.—A school on the Madras system was established at Wearmouth, under the personal direction of Dr. Bell, and a neat school-house, with two separate rooms for the boys and girls, was built by subscription, opposite to the west end of the church. The whole expense amounted to about £500.—*Ibid.*

This year, in breaking up a freestone quarry, near Bamborough, where the ground seemingly had never been opened before, a vast quantity of the horns of deer (supposed to be red) were found buried full four feet under a solid body of earth. Most of them, when exposed to the air, mouldered and fell in pieces, except two, which were in high preservation. They were each about three feet long, and all their ramifications quite entire. They were carefully suspended in Bamborough castle as curiosities. In digging them up, it appeared that whole carcasses had been entombed there, for the skulls of some of them were not severed from the horns, and even an offensive smell arose from the soil in which they were buried.—*Ibid.*

This year, died, at Berwick, John Chisholm, aged 74 years. He had served under general Wolfe at Quebec, and was reckoned one of the best swordsmen in the army. On his retirement from the army, he became a Chelsea pensioner. It was believed that he was heir-at-law to a large property. Though, like Dancer and Elwes, he was continually employed in picking up pieces of rope, stick, &c. in the streets, upwards of five hundred guineas in gold were found secreted in various parts of his house.—*Ibid.*

Robert Sanderson, who also served under general Wolfe, died at Ford, in Northumberland, August 7th, 1807, aged 85 years. As Chisholm was a good swordsman, so Sanderson was famous as a marksman, and he is generally understood to have been the man who shot the French commander, general Montcalm. He was orderly serjeant to Wolfe, and is the figure represented in the print of the death of Wolfe, as supporting the general after he received his death wound.—*Ibid.*

1808.—Chapter-row chapel (Wesleyan Methodist), South Shields, (parish of Jarrow), Durham, founded. The register of births and baptisms 82 entries, extends from 1823 to 1837. The chapel was built by subscription, and was opened February 26, 1809, by the rev. Dan. Isaac, who preached to a crowded audience.—*Rep. of Parl. Com., &c.*

The Independent chapel Staindrop, founded. The register of births and baptisms 57 entries, extends from 1806 to 1837.—*Ibid.*

1808.—Swedenborgian chapel, Percy-street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, founded. The register of births and baptisms, 263 entries, extending from 1808 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

1809 (Feb. 10).—As some workmen were digging the foundation of a new waggon-way through the estate of John Stafford, esq. of White-house, near Newcastle, an immense quantity of very valuable and ancient coins of gold, silver, and copper were discovered—*Local Papers.*

March 8.—Died, at Washington Wood, Sarah Hudson, aged 101 years.—*Ibid.*

April 16.—Died, at Bishopwearmouth, Mr. John Pattinson, aged 104 years. He enjoyed all his faculties till within a few days of his death, particularly his eye-sight, as he could read the smallest print without glasses.—*Ibid.*

May 11.—Being Ascension-day, a terrible accident happened as the barges passed up the river, on board of the Hartford, lying at Newcastle quay. Thomas Heron, the mate, having fired a gun in salute, was reloading it without spunging, when the charge took fire, and blew him overboard. A finger was left on deck, and, from the circumstance of his hat being much cut, it was supposed that his head had been blown off.—*Ibid.*

May 15.—The inhabitants of Alnwick and its vicinity were gratified by the completion of an undertaking hitherto unattempted in that quarter, viz. the delivering of coals at Alnwick, from Shilbottle colliery, by waggons conveyed along a metal railroad.—*Mon. Mag.*

May 17.—The opening of the waggon-way from Bewicke main to the river Tyne took place, on which occasion every road leading to it was crowded with passengers at an early hour, and before eleven o'clock, about ten thousand people were assembled. About this time, four waggons of small coals were brought up the first plane by the steam-engine, to the great admiration of the spectators; but owing to some unexplained circumstance, the four waggons of best coals intended for the Tyne, did not start till a much later hour. As soon as the waggons reached the summit of the second and highest plane, up which they went with surprising velocity and regularity, the British flag was hoisted at Ayton cottage; and the event was announced by a discharge of six pieces of cannon, which were answered by an equal number from the Ann and Isabella, his majesty's armed ship on the Tyne, and from Deptford-house, the residence of Mr. Cooke. Immediately on the waggons reaching the first plane, about four hundred gentlemen sat down to dinner, in a tent fitted up for the occasion. An excellent military band attended. In the evening, in order to prove the excellence of the level railway, six men, without horses,

took with the greatest ease four laden waggons, with each ten men on the top, from Ayton cottage to the Tyne; and the first coals being put on board the *Ann and Isabella*, the discharges of artillery were repeated.—*Local Papers*.

1809.—This year, the greater part of the foundations of Horton castle, near Sighill, Northumberland, were rased and the ramparts levelled into its moat. It dates its origin as early as the time of Henry III. It was of considerable importance and defended by a double moat and rampart.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

In the spring of this year, as some workmen were levelling a piece of ground on an allotment of Aydon common, in Northumberland, belonging to Mr. Bulman of Newcastle, they found an urn with the mouth downwards, which would hold about four gallons, having a smaller one within it, with the mouth also downwards, and which contained a quantity of small bones, which crumbled to pieces on being removed.—*Local Papers*.

May 30.—The society of Arts presented to Mr. Luke Clennell, a native of Morpeth, and who had been a pupil to Mr. Thomas Bewick, of Newcastle, a medal, for an engraving on wood of the Highland society's diploma. May 27th, 1806, Mr. Clennell was presented by the same society with the gold pallet, for an engraving on wood of a battle.—*Ibid.*

June 9.—The drying-house of Mrs. Cook at Athelstone abbey paper-mill, near Barnard-castle, was discovered to be on fire. She and her two daughters, in endeavouring to remove what paper they could, were soon enveloped in flames. The neighbouring farmers, after the alarm was given, were obliged to break in the shutters, and with much difficulty got them out of the place from the top windows. Mrs. Cook was carried down apparently lifeless, and expired the next day; the eldest daughter leaped out of one of the windows, but was so much burnt that her life was despaired of; the other was carried down in the same manner as her mother, nearly suffocated.—*Ibid.*

July 31.—A grand masonic procession took place from the Granby lodge-room, in old Elvet, Durham, at half-past eleven o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of laying the foundation stone of the county courts, new gaol, &c., in that city. It was performed by sir H. V. Tempest, bart., P.G.M. *pro tem.* assisted by R. J. Lambton, P.G.M., and the officers and brethren of the provincial grand lodge of the county, in presence of the lord bishop of Durham, the magistrates, clergy, and gentry of the county, and the corporation of the city. When the masonic procession were in the street, they were honoured with a salute from colonel Shipperdson and the Durham volunteers, who were drawn out to join them; and the bishop of Durham, magis-

trates, &c., joined in the procession soon after. When the front of the procession arrived at the ground, the volunteers filed off, and formed three sides of a square to keep the ground. When the grand master arrived in the trench, he, with the provincial officers, formed on three sides of the stone, and the bishop, magistrates, &c., at a little distance on the fourth side. The bishop then deposited gold, silver, and copper coins of the reign of king George III., in a chamber in the stone, which was covered by a plate, with a suitable inscription. The masonic ceremony of laying the stone having been gone through, the volunteers saluted, the band playing "*God Save the King.*" The procession then proceeded to the Assembly rooms, in the Bailey, where the bishop took his leave, and the company sat down to an excellent dinner. The county courts were opened August 14th, 1811. The prisoners were not removed from the old gaol and house of correction till August 3rd, 1819.—*Surtees.*

1809.—This year, during the month of August in which Stockton races are held, the race course was so much flooded by the river, that, in some places, the horses ran belly deep in water. The course, which is considered a very good one, is a mile in circuit. The races here were discontinued from 1815 to 1825; and, though revived and carried on regularly since the latter date, they are not well attended.—*Mackenzie and Ross' Dur.*

August 1.—A violent thunder storm, accompanied with rain and hail, took place at Alnwick; the electric fluid entered the house of Major Castles, and shivered a bed-stead to pieces, tore the wall in several places, and completely demolished the bell-wires; a servant maid was in the bed-room, but escaped unhurt; it left such a sulphureous smell in the house that they could scarcely breathe in it for some time.—*Local Papers.*

August 3.—Newcastle was visited by a most awful storm of thunder and lightning, accompanied by a torrent of rain, and a great quantity of hail. During the whole afternoon, which was very close and sultry, distant thunder was heard in the south east; about half past five, the storm reached that place, and continued about an hour, during which time the flashes of lightning followed each other in awful and rapid succession, with such tremendous thunder, as threatened to dissolve the town, and

"Leave not a wreck behind!"

The deluge of rain and hail that fell, speedily inundated the streets, and must have caused considerable damage in the lower parts of the town. The injury done by lightning was very great, as will appear by the following particulars:—A ball of electric matter entered the house of Mr. D. Sutton, in Prince's-street. It first struck the chimney top,

which it threw down, partly into the street, and partly into the house. It then followed the direction of the chimney into the sitting parlour, in which were eight persons, dashed part of the tea equipage upon the floor, shivered the book-case, and, proceeding towards the door, which was fortunately open, burst with a dreadful explosion, followed by six small ones, but, fortunately, injured no person seriously. Two ladies were slightly struck, one on the side of her head, and the other's mit was singed, and her arm slightly affected; a gentleman of the party was also slightly struck in the face. The electric fluid then communicated with the bell-wires, which it melted all over the house, following them from room to room, in an upward direction, tearing up the floors, &c. in its passage; it broke the glass of a clock, and stopped it, shivered three bed poles, and finally passed out at the upper part of the house. In the different rooms twenty-one squares of glass were broken and forced outwards, and in one of the rooms Mr. Sutton had a most providential escape, being there with the intention of shutting a window at the time it was struck. The effect produced on the bell wires was beautiful beyond description. Immediately after the explosion, the sitting room was filled with smoke, attended with such a strong smell of sulphur, as rendered it dangerous to remain in the room. The door jamb of the adjoining house was also torn off. The lightning also struck down a chimney and entered the roof of Mr. Humble's dwelling-house, near the Forth, and at the same time shattered one of the pillars of the front door, communicating with and destroying all the wires of the bells in the first and second stories; shattered the stock of a gun in the kitchen, also the window shutters of three rooms, singeing the paper, and tossing about the lime from the tops of the windows wherever the bell-wires communicated; then bursting out of the back-staircase window, with a dreadful explosion, similar to the discharge of a cannon, and filling the different rooms with black sulphureous smoke. Providentially none of the family were materially hurt. Mrs. Humble was deprived of her hearing for a few minutes, and experienced a numbness in one arm; one of the servants was slightly scorched in her hand. Mrs. Hawks' house, near Jesmond, was struck; and the works of a gold watch, which was hanging up in one of the rooms, were melted, and considerable damage done to the walls, pictures, &c. The lightning set a bark mill near St. Andrew's church, on fire, but fortunately it was extinguished without much damage, except to the wands and one beam. On the same day the house of Mr. Usha, at Preston, near North Shields, suffered materially by the lightning, which entered the chimney, and made its way to a front room on the ground floor, where it damaged some of the furniture; it then broke the partition betwixt

the room and the kitchen, where it struck one of Mr. Usha's daughters to the ground, and severely burnt her neck and arms; it then shattered another partition, in its course to a back kitchen, whence it forced its way out of the house through a strong wall, which it considerably rent and damaged. A lamb was struck dead, amongst many others, belonging to a butcher at North Shields.—*Local Papers.*



BARK MILL, ADJOINING ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH-YARD (1843).

1809 (Aug. 12).—One of the heaviest showers of rain ever remembered fell in Newcastle, and its neighbourhood. It continued with little intermission for the space of six hours, with such violence, that every brook and rivulet were swollen to a most alarming height. The small stream of water, which runs through Pandon, in that town, overflowed its banks, and inundating most of the houses in new Pandon street, and the Stock bridge, to the depth of three or four feet of water. A boy, named George Innis, about five years old, son of George Innis, smith, Pandon-gate had a most miraculous escape. Whilst amusing himself along with several other children, with wading in the water near the mustard-mill, at the foot of Pandon dean, he ventured too far into the stream, and was swept away, by the impetuosity of the current. Near the place from whence he was taken away, the water entered an enclosed conduit, through which

he was carried for the space of three hundred yards, and precipitated with great fury down a fall of sixteen feet in the midst of its course. At the extremity of the conduit, he was most providentially perceived by a man, who, at the imminent hazard of his own life, sprang into the water, and succeeded in rescuing him from his perilous situation; and such was the rapidity of the current, that it was with great difficulty the man was prevented from being borne away by it. The boy, when first taken out, exhibited very little appearance of animation, but in a short time he came to himself, having received only some bruises. At four o'clock the same afternoon, a short but severe thunder storm passed over that town. A man of the name of Henderson, of Angerton moor, who had run for shelter into a shed at the Cowgate on the town-moor, was, together with four horses, struck dead by the lightning. It was somewhat remarkable, that the hat of the deceased was torn from his head, and forced upwards with such force, as to be closely jambed in the crevice, of two boards which were placed immediately over the place where he had been standing. Another man and a boy, and two other horses, in the same place at the time, were also struck down, but afterwards recovered. Several cows and horses at the fair, at that time holding on the Cowhill, were scorched by the lightning. A man named Liddell, servant to Mr. Freeman, near West Jesmond, in endeavouring to cross the Ouseburn, near that place, with a horse, was unfortunately drowned; the horse was saved.—*Local Papers.*

1809 (Aug. 16).—Lord Barnard, the eldest son of the earl of Darlington, attained the age of 21 years, upon which occasion, a plentiful dinner was provided at Raby castle, for his lordship's tenantry. The park guns were fired at one o'clock, and a ball was given to the tenants' wives and daughters in the evening. An ox was roasted whole at Darlington, and distributed with plenty of bread and ale to the populace; another was roasted and distributed in like manner at Pierscbridge; a third at Staindrop; a fourth at Cockfield; a fifth at Barnard-castle, and a sixth at Middleton-in-Teesdale, at all of which places, there were great rejoicings.—*Ibid.*

August 19.—John Boyd was executed at Morpeth, pursuant to his sentence, for a forgery on the Durham bank. He was taken to the place of execution in a chaise, handsomely dressed in a suit of black, with black silk stockings, in which attire, at his own request, he was deposited in the earth. This unfortunate young man, who was only twenty one years of age, had very respectable connexions in Ireland, but had assumed a false name, that this history of his guilt might never reach the knowledge of his friends and relatives.—*Ibid.*

September 12.—While Alexander Blackett, keelman, was sitting

on the edge of the quay at Newcastle, with a child in his arms, he was seized with a fit, fell into the river, and was drowned. He had the presence of mind to throw the child from him on to the quay, whose life was thereby saved.—*Gent's. Mag.*

1809 (Sep. 14).—An explosion took place in Killingworth colliery, by which unfortunate occurrence twelve human beings lost their lives.—*Local Papers.*

September 15.—Mr. J. Storey, of Cambois, near Blyth, who had been fishing at sea for his amusement, returned at the dusk in the evening, and immediately proceeded home to announce his arrival to his family, when his two daughters, one aged 14, the other 22 years, proposed to accompany him to the shore, in order to assist in securing the boat. The eldest daughter and father proceeded towards the boat, while the youngest staid at a distance with the light, which suddenly disappearing, the other sister went to ascertain the cause, when, melancholy to relate, the wretched father never beheld them again in existence. It is supposed that they had got on a quicksand at the edge of the river, and sank. The eldest was found floating at sea on the following day, and the other along the shore. October 25th, the unhappy parent, in a fit of despondency for the loss of his daughters, terminated his life by throwing himself into the river with a large stone tied about his waist. He left a widow and six children.—*Ibid.*

October 17.—Mr. Sinton, of the Shield-field mill, near Newcastle, having stopped the mill and ascended the wands to adjust the sail, the brake suddenly gave way, and he was carried round upon the wand with great velocity for near a quarter of an hour. His distressing situation being perceived by the men of Pandon dean mill, assistance was immediately sent, and he was rescued from his perilous situation without having received any bodily injury; it was, however, a considerable time before he recovered his recollection.—*Ibid.*

October 25.—The jubilee, on his majesty's (king George III.) entrance into the 50th year of his reign, was celebrated in Newcastle by public rejoicings, and acts of munificence and liberality;—it having been ascertained that it would be more grateful to the feelings, not only of the monarch, but also of the subject, that in lieu of an illumination, a collection should be made for the foundation of a public school, upon the plan of Mr. Lancaster and Dr. Bell, several respectable persons obligingly undertook to wait upon the inhabitants on the two preceding days for their contributions, when upwards of £600. were collected. By another subscription, commenced among the ladies and gentlemen, ten prisoners were liberated from the gaol. To this last the corporation subscribed 50 guineas, and the members of parlia-

ment for the town 30 guineas, making in all £186. 17s. 6d. The day was ushered in by the ringing of bells, the flag was hoisted on the castle, flags were also displayed upon some of the churches, and also by the ships in the river. The Union society of change-ringers rang in St. Nicholas' belfry a complete peal of Holt's grandsire triples, consisting of five thousand and forty changes, in three hours and nineteen minutes. The Newcastle associated volunteer infantry, under the command of sir Matthew White Ridley, bart., marched to St. Nicholas' church, as did also the West Suffolk, the Royal artillery,



ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH, FROM THE GROAT MARKET (1827).

and the 6th dragoons; the mayor and magistrates attended divine service, also lieutenant-general Dundas and his staff; an excellent sermon, from the 3rd chapter of St. Paul's epistle to the Hebrews, part of the 4th verse, was preached by the rev. John Smith, A.M., vicar; after which the above mentioned corps, with the Newcastle volunteers, and South Tyne legion, proceeded to the town-moor, where

they were drawn up in line, and after the artillery had fired a royal salute of twenty-one guns, made three excellent volleys in honour of the day; they then marched past lieutenant-general Dundas. The volunteers proceeded to the Sandhill, and fired three volleys. The mayor, the members of the town, the sheriff, lieutenant-general Dundas and his staff, sir C. M. L. Monck, and about eighty gentlemen, dined at Loftus's; the band of the armed association attended. Upwards of five hundred poor persons belonging to the parish of St. Nicholas dined in the yard of the poor house of that parish. By the hospitality of Major Anderson, and a few other benevolent burghesses, the poor members of the Freeman's hospital, in the Manor chare, dined together on the green before the house. The boys and girls in each of the charity schools were dined, by order of a party of gentlemen, who, after the children had dined, ordered the teachers a dinner, and a bottle of wine each. Sir Cuthbert Heron, bart., distributed beef and bread to fifty poor housekeepers in Gallowgate. The congregation of the rev. William Turner, in Hanover square, gave to each of the poor belonging to that chapel, beef, bread, porter, tea, and lump-sugar, to be used at their own houses. Lieutenant-colonel Burdon presented the officers of the South Tyne legion with a dinner at Forster's, the Queen's Head inn; and an elegant cup, of the value of £120., was presented by the non-commissioned officers and privates of that regiment to their commandant, who provided a dinner for them, in a field near West Jesmond. In the evening, there was a ball and a supper at the Assembly-rooms, which was numerously attended.

The inhabitants of the city of Durham evinced their attachment to their sovereign, by various acts of munificence, extending to their dependents and inferior's satisfaction and comfort, and expressive of their own contentment and happiness. Exclusive of a large sum appropriated by the reverend the dean and chapter for the liberation of prisoners confined for small debts, a general collection, amounting to £120., was made and distributed to more than one thousand poor families. Thomas Wilkinson, of Oswald-house, esq., presented to a great number of poor old persons two shillings and sixpence each; upwards of five hundred charity children were also enabled to participate in the general festivity. Besides the masonic, there were several select dinner parties. A ball and supper at Alsop's rooms, were most fashionably and numerously attended.

The jubilee was celebrated at Alnwick with uncommon festivity and joy. An appropriate sermon was preached in the parish church by the rev. Mr. Proctor, to a crowded audience; each freeman and freeman's widow received one guinea to drink his majesty's health.

The chamberlains and council dined at the Black Bull. The Percy tenantry were posted upon the extensive ramparts of the castle, and the artillery at the battery, and the cavalry, were drawn up on the plain before the battery, when three *feux de joie*, were fired throughout the whole, which had a most beautiful effect. After which, the officers dined at the castle with earl Percy, their colonel; and the different companies at the various inns.

At Berwick, the day was ushered in with the ringing of bells. In the forenoon, the mayor and the magistrates attended divine service at church, when an appropriate sermon was preached by the rev. Joseph Barnes, the vicar. After the service in the church was concluded, the Forfarshire militia marched from the barracks to the walls, and being stationed at proper distances round the fortifications of the town, fired three *feux de joie*, the cannon firing betwixt each round of the infantry, twice seventeen and once sixteen times, making fifty rounds in honour of the day. The militia having marched into the parade, fired three excellent vollies. Colonel Allan, M.P., gave a dinner to above six hundred boys, mostly belonging to the schools in the town, the masters of which attended. The mayor, magistrates, and a great number of gentlemen, dined at the Red Lion inn. In the evening, there was a ball at the Assembly-room; there was also a ball and supper at the town-hall (which, with the spire, was illuminated), given by colonel Allan, both of which were numerous attended. The evening's amusements out of doors concluded with fire-works.

Every town, and many of the villages within the counties of Durham and Northumberland, evinced their joy and gratitude at their beloved monarch's lengthened years.—*Local Papers, &c.*

1809 (Nov. 22).—Died, in the Freeman's hospital, in the Manor chare, Newcastle, Mary Huntley, aged 102 years.—*Ibid.*

This year, died at Wingate grange, in the county of Durham, Mr. T. Watson, aged 106 years.—*Ibid.*

An act was this year passed for constituting Gateshead Fell a separate rectory, and one acre of ground was ordered to be allotted to the rector of Gateshead, for the site of a church and church-yard, leaving, however, the whole of the original parish united as to the joint maintenance of the poor. The foundation stone of a new church on Gateshead Fell was laid May 13th, 1824.—*Ibid.*

An act was also obtained this year for paving, watching, lighting, and cleansing the town of Sunderland; for removing the market, for building a town-hall or market-house, and otherwise improving the said town, and for establishing a watch on the river Wear.—*Ibid.*

The Bible society for Newcastle-upon-Tyne, which originated in the benevolent mind of the late Mr. Charles Newby Wawn, was in-

stituted this year. From its last report (1842) we find that during the thirty-three years of its establishment it has purchased for the use of its depôt forty-one thousand, eight hundred and eighty-eight Bibles and forty-five thousand, three hundred and eighty-two New testaments, thus putting into circulation eighty-seven thousand, two hundred and seventy copies of the Holy Scriptures.—*J. Fenwick's Col.*



OLD MOOT HALL (1809).

1809.—The Moot-hall, in the Castle-garth, Newcastle, long used for the keeping of assize, sessions, and gaol-delivery, for the county of Northumberland, was pulled down, when it exhibited a curious mixture of Roman, Norman, Gothic, and modern architecture. Its eastern wall, which was of vast thickness, appeared to have been the wall of the Roman station. It was built of square tessilated ashler work, and ranged with a similar wall, whose foundations were shortly afterwards discovered in preparing for the erection of the County-courts. At the north end of the Moot-hall was a range of low Norman arches and pilasters, and its roof was supported by two heavy pointed arches. This old hall occupied the area before the entrance to the present courts.—*Mackenzie, &c.*

A buoy, stationed about two miles to the north-east of Bamborough-castle, in Northumberland, was, in the winter of this year, carried away in a violent storm, and found, together with a large piece of metal, which served as an anchor, on the sand near Nova-Scotia.—*Local Papers.*

This year and the following, Collingwood-street, in Newcastle (called after the gallant admiral), was formed, and the houses which stood near the north porch of St. Nicholas' church, were pulled down,

by which a large area, called St. Nicholas' square, is formed in front of that elegant structure.—*Local Papers.*

1809.—Zion chapel, (Methodist new connexion) Sunderland, founded. The registers of births and baptisms, extending from 1811 to 1836.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

At the binding of the colliers, which took place at this time, in the month of October, the owners by a previous agreement among themselves, but which had not been made known to the men, proposed that the men should be engaged for a quarter, or a year and a quarter, which would bring the binding to the latter end of December, or beginning of January, to which the men agreed; but upon mature deliberation they found that they had done wrong, and, accordingly, on the 16th of October, 1810, a meeting of delegates was held at Long Benton, when it was resolved by a majority that a strike should take place, unless the owners would agree to continue the binding from the 18th of October, as usual. This not being complied with, the men accordingly struck after that day, and as the delegates from the different collieries held frequent meetings, both in the counties of Durham and of Northumberland, they were hunted out by the owners and magistrates assisted by the military, and committed to prison until the prisons could contain no more. To such an extent were the old gaol and house of correction at Durham filled, that for fear of infection, several were removed to the stables and the stable-yard of the bishop of Durham, where they were guarded by the Durham volunteers, and constables, and afterwards by the royal Caermarthenshire militia. Fresh seizures continued to be made, the number in the bishop's stables amounted to about three hundred. Finding that this mode of proceeding only made the matter worse, the rev. W. Nesfield, a magistrate, and captain Davis, of the Caermarthenshire militia, undertook to compromise the difference. They made application to the prisoners in the bishop's stables, whom they considered the leading men, but who refused to have anything to do in the matter, leaving it entirely to their partners at liberty, who settled it by removing the time of binding to the 5th of April, as at present. In the course of this strike of about seven weeks, several other things were brought forward, particularly the fines for deficient measure and foul coals. Mr. Nesfield having pledged himself that these things should be rectified after the pits had again commenced working and previous to the binding, he by advertisement called a meeting of the trade to be held at Chester-le-street on the morning of December the 20th, "and that two men from each colliery be directed to attend." This was objected to by Mr. Martindale, the clerk to the coal trade on the river Wear, "lest such

meeting should hazard a recurrence of the late disturbances," and "that the river Wear does not in itself constitute the coal trade, but that the rivers Tyne, Hartley, Blyth, and Cowpen, form also a principal part thereof," &c. This being also inserted in the papers, with Mr. Nesfield's answer to the objections contained therein, he by another advertisement dated December the 26th, and addressed "to the coal owners of the rivers Tyne and Wear, and of Hartley, Blyth, and Cowpen," called a meeting to be held at the same place on the 3rd of January, 1811, when printed "Proposals for regulating the contracts between the coal owners and their pitmen on the rivers Tyne and Wear, and of Hartley, Blyth, and Cowpen, submitted to their consideration, at a special meeting held at Chester-le-street, on Thursday, the 3rd of January, 1811, by the Rev. William Nesfield, one of his Majesty's Justices of the peace for the county of Durham," were agreed to by the coal-owners, and have been the basis of the agreements ever since.

By the words "binding time" is meant the day from which the contract is made in one year until the same day in the next year, when it expires. The time when it is made is uncertain—sometimes a month or six weeks before the old contract ceases. Previous to 1810, when there was a great scarcity of pitmen, a bounty called "binding money" was given, which at some collieries was as high as twenty guineas a man, but which is now entirely done away. The binding money in 1800 was from 10 to 12 guineas a man. In 1804, from 18 to 20 guineas. In 1809, five guineas, and by Mr. Nesfield's proposals it was to be the same as in the year preceding.—*Local Rec.*

1809.—On opening a gap in a wall near Bamborough, for the passage of carts, a toad, which had been incarcerated in the centre of a wall, was found alive and set at liberty. A mason, named George Wilson, when building this wall sixteen years before, had wantonly immured the animal in a close cavity formed of lime and stone, just sufficient to contain it, and which he plastered so closely as seemingly to prevent the admission of air. When discovered, it seemed at first, as must naturally be supposed, in a very torpid state; but it soon recovered animation and activity; and as if sensible of the blessings of freedom, made its way to a collection of stones, and disappeared.—*Mackenzie.*

At this time the branch road from Heddon-on-the-wall to Hexham was formed, and a bridge on the line of the road, was built over Whittle-dean, about twelve miles west of Newcastle. It is situate in a hollow of the road, and crosses a deep romantic dell through which a considerable stream rushes to the Tyne. A large portion of the stone used in the erection of this bridge was obtained from the

ruins of an old tower, seated on the west bank of the stream, and embowered in a thick wood immediately north of the road, the remains of which shew it to have been a stronghold of some importance.—*MS. Col.*



WHITTLE TOWER, NORTHUMBERLAND (1842).

1810 (Jan. 10).—Died, at Alnham, in Northumberland, John Rutherford, aged 100 years. He had formerly been a shepherd.—*Local Papers.*

January 16.—Died, within the rules of the King's bench prison, London, and was buried on the 23d, in the vault of St. George's church, in the borough, Andrew Robinson Stoney Bowes, esq. This Irish *fortune hunter*, then Mr. Stoney, came to Newcastle, an ensign in the 4th regiment of foot, where he had the address to marry Miss Newton,* only child of William Newton, of Burnopfield, in the county of Durham, esq., with a very large fortune. In 1770, Ensign Stoney, succeeded Mr. Forrest, (promoted to a captaincy) as lieutenant in the 4th regiment of foot. After the regiment was disbanded, Mr. Stoney retired on half-pay to the seat of his wife's ancestors. His wife, after suffering much cruel treatment, died, leaving no issue. In 1777, he married the countess of Strathmore, a most accomplished young widow, whose lord had died at Lisbon, leaving her in the pos-

* November 5th, 1768, was married at St. Andrew's church, in Newcastle, by the Rev. Mr. Nathaniel Ellison, Andrew Robinson Stoney, esq., an ensign in the 4th regiment (Brudenell's), to Miss Newton, of Westgate Street, an heiress with a fortune of £20,000.—*Newcastle Courant and Newcastle Journal of this date.*

session of immense property. In consequence of this marriage, he assumed the name of Bowes. On the death of sir Walter Blackett, this year, he stood a contest for Newcastle, against sir John Trevelyan, bart., but was unsuccessful. In 1780, he served the office of high sheriff of Northumberland, and in the month of September the same year, was chosen a representative in parliament for Newcastle. In 1785, the countess obtained a divorce against her husband for cruelty, and in 1787, articles of peace were again exhibited against him, in consequence of which, he was finally sentenced to pay a fine of £300. to his majesty, to be confined in the king's bench prison for three years, and at the expiration thereof, to find security for fourteen years, himself in £10,000. and two securities in £5,000. each. The countess wrote a very bitter, but just epitaph, which she sent to Bowes during his confinement. Bowes was a compound of baseness and hypocrisy, and his acts (even when in prison) were of the blackest dye. The countess of Strathmore died April 28th, 1800.—*Local Rec.*

1810 (Jan. 20).—Died, at the Forest Burn, Rothbury, Matthew Hall, aged 107 years.—*Local Papers.*

January 30.—Died, in the county poor-house, in Gallowgate, Newcastle, Mary Walker, widow, aged 102 years.—*Ibid.*

February.—Previous to digging the foundation for the county courts, in Newcastle, it was necessary to remove an enormous mound, surrounded by the moot-hall on the north (then removed), and by what was called the half moon battery on the south. This vast accumulation of ashes, &c. was about thirty-two feet high, above one hundred feet in length, and of great breadth. The beginning of this month, on digging the foundation, after its removal, several antiquities were discovered, which proved this to have been the site of a Roman station. When at the depth of five feet from the surface, a well of Roman masonry was discovered near the edge of the bank. It is near the centre of the present building. To raise it to the desired level, a very strong wall in the form of a trapezium, and enclosing about ten square yards, had been constructed on frame work, of beams of oak, fixed perpendicularly and horizontally in the river bank, and filled up within and without with clear blue clay. The beams of oak were remarkably fresh, and near the bottom of two of them, that were placed perpendicularly, stags' horns of great size and thickness were found. Between the fictitious and original bank was a thick layer of ferns, grasses, brambles, and twigs of birch and oak, firmly matted together. Near the north-east corner of the court-house were found two Roman altars, one bearing an illegible inscription, the other plain. There were also large quantities of Roman

pottery, two copper coins of Antoninus Pius, and a part of the shaft of a Corinthian pillar, richly fluted and of excellent workmanship. Near the altars there were found a small axe, a concave stone, bearing marks of fire, split and with thin flakes of lead in the fissures, also fragments of millstones and foundations of walls, firm and impenetrable as the hardest rock. At the bottom of the well were found two buckets with their iron chains.—*Hodgson's Northd., &c.*

1810 (Feb. 6).—Died, at Barnardcastle, Margaret Gowland, aged 105 years.—*Local Papers.*

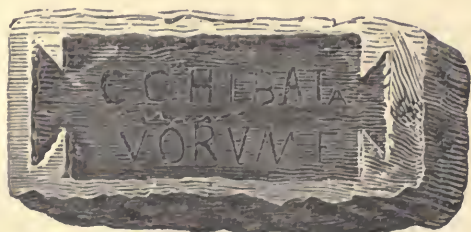
February 22.—About two o'clock on the morning, a most tremendous fire broke out in the steam corn and paper mill, on the premises of Mr. Harrison, baker, Gateshead. A few minutes after the first discovery of the calamity, the whole of the mill was completely in flames, and the fire had communicated to the adjoining dwelling house of Mr. Harrison, where it spread itself with such rapidity, that the family had scarce time to save their lives; happily, however, they all escaped unhurt, but of the furniture and other effects of the house, not any part was preserved, nor even a single article of wearing apparel. On the first alarm, the fire bell was rung, and the fire-engines hastened to the spot, but before they could be of any use, the dwelling house of Mr. Harrison was completely destroyed; and the adjoining one occupied by Mr. Anderson, grocer, in such a state of conflagration, that it was utterly impossible to prevent it sharing the same fate. The fire was, however, prevented from spreading farther on that side, and the exertions of the firemen were happily attended with such success, that the dwelling house adjoining to Mr. Harrison on the other side, and tenanted by Mr. John Marshall, printer, was preserved from destruction, and the fire which had communicated to it extinguished. The whole was got under about nine o'clock. Mr. Anderson lost the whole of his furniture, clothes, &c., and nearly the contents of his shop. Mr. Marshall also sustained a considerable loss by the hasty removal of his stock. The premises being contiguous to the river, made the illumination awfully grand from Newcastle. There was a very liberal subscription for the sufferers.—*Ibid.*

February 27.—A grand masonic procession took place at Berwick, on the occasion of laying the foundation stone of a new pier for that harbour; the day was ushered in by the ringing of bells, &c. The different lodges of freemasons from the neighbouring towns joined that of Berwick, assembled on the morning, at the town-hall, along with the magistrates, commissioners, and a number of the most respectable inhabitants, thence they walked to the church in due order, where an excellent sermon was preached on the occasion by the rev. J.

Barnes, vicar of Berwick. After service, they proceeded (attended by the band, and a guard of the Forfarshire militia, then lying there), to lay the foundation stone. After the rev. William Johnstone, of Spital, chaplain to the lodge of St. George, had delivered a short prayer, the stone in which was deposited a bottle, containing one of each of the coins of George III. with several medals, and two plates with suitable inscriptions on them, was laid down amidst the acclamations of an immense concourse of people. When the ceremony, which was honoured with a royal salute from the cannon on the ramparts, repeated by the ships in the harbour, which displayed their flags on the occasion, was over, the procession returned to the town-hall, where the lodge of St. George dined; the other lodges dined at their respective rooms, and the day concluded with the greatest harmony.—*Local Papers.*

1810 (Feb.)—As the workmen were forming the common sewer for a house in Collingwood street, Newcastle, then building for the late Mr. John Arnett, tallow chandler, they discovered a fine fragment of the Roman wall, in which was found a stone hollowed out like a mortar, and containing some bones and ashes or red earth. This hollow stone was inverted upon a thin stone and formed part of the face of the wall.—*Ibid.*

The inscription here represented, and found at Caervorran, was this year, built up into the end of the house of Mr. Carriek the proprietor of the station. It was subsequently possessed by Mr. Gibson, of Redesmouth, and now forms one of the many in the colonnade of the society of Antiquaries, Newcastle. It is read thus “The first cohort of the Batavians made this.” The Notitia places this cohort at Procolitia or Carrawburgh, where also it is mentioned in inscriptions.—*Hodgson.*



CHAPTER V.



IED, off Minorca, on board the *Ville de Paris*, on the 7th of March, 1810, the day after his departure for England, vice-admiral lord Collingwood, born at Newcastle in the year 1750. He was the friend and confidant of lord Nelson, and after the fall of that gallant admiral at the battle off Cape Trafalgar, admiral Collingwood completed the victory in the most gallant style,

for which conduct, November 24th, 1805, the freedom of the city of London and a sword of two hundred guineas value were voted to him. November 21st the same year, the common council of Newcastle, voted him a piece of plate value one hundred and fifty guineas, and the master and brethren of the Trinity-house, presented him with the freedom of that corporation in a gold-box. The Newcastle armed associated volunteer infantry voted him a piece of plate, value one hundred and twenty-five guineas, for his meritorious conduct on the same occasion. It was made in London, and was an elegant silver enchased tureen, containing his lordship's arms, with other emblematical devices, and an appropriate inscription. May 11th, his lordship's remains were interred in St. Paul's cathedral. August 6th, 1812, a fine whole length portrait of his lordship which had been voted by the Newcastle volunteers, to be placed in the Guildhall of that town, was, after an elegant speech, presented by lieutenant colonel Clennell, at the head of the regiment, to the mayor and other members of the corporation. The regiment then fired three volleys, and the guns on the castle fired a salute. In 1821, a cenotaph by Rossi, to the memory of lord Collingwood, was placed in the nave of St. Nicholas' church, Newcastle. It is a marble bust of his lordship,

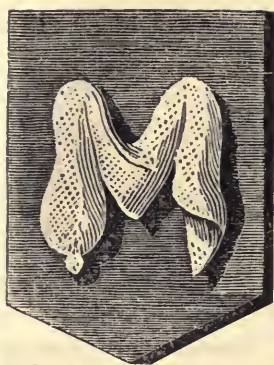
placed upon a pedestal, whereon is recorded his various achievements. An engraved portrait is prefixed to his memoirs. Lady Collingwood died September 16th, 1819.—*Local Papers*.

1810 (Mar. 15).—A self-acting plane was brought into operation for the purpose of conveying coals from Bewicke-main colliery to the Tyne. It was constructed and executed under the direction of Samuel Cooke, esq., of Ayton-house, one of the owners of the colliery. The length of the rope on this plane was sixteen hundred yards, and it was made to convey fifty chaldron waggons of coals, at the rate of ten miles in one hour.—*Ibid*.

March 16.—Died, at Lamesley, in the county of Durham, Mrs. Mary Potter, aged 100 years.—*Ibid*.

In the spring of this year a part of the south wall of Barnard castle fell. It battered in the roof of a house, and a man at work in a saw-pit below was providentially preserved by a tree falling across it.—*Mackenzie and Ross' Dur*.

April 7.—About one o'clock on the morning, several Cullercoat fishermen, launched their boats and went to sea, it being smoother than it had been for many days. They got off and examined their great lines, where they had left them some time previously. Whilst they were thus employed, a heavy storm arose. The alarming situation of the boats being seen from Hartley, the Blyth life boat was sent for, and promptly obtained, accompanied by numbers of people. The wind, about three o'clock in the afternoon, blew strong from E.S.E., and the sea very high. The life boat being manned, then pulled through the breakers, soon reached the fishing cobles, and after taking out the men and much of their gear, the majority unfortunately agreed to land near Bates's Isle, instead of making for Blyth or Shields harbours, the former of which they could have reached in an hour. In returning and nearing the margin of the tempestuous main, one high and ridgy wave broke into the boat, killed or dreadfully maimed the steersman and two or three others, stove the boat almost to pieces, yet she still floated, her gunwales even with the broken water. Another heavy wave following when she was near the land and under no command, she struck the ground, splitting nearly in two, the cork floated out, and the fragments were entirely dispersed. Only two men out of twenty-seven, escaped to land; one a Swede and the other a seaman named Thomas Lily, belonging to Hartley. During the whole of this heart-rending scene, the shore was lined with near two thousand people. Amongst the sufferers were a father and four sons, named Armstrong; several left widows and large families. A very liberal subscription was raised in the neighbouring towns for the distressed families.—*Ibid*.



1810 (April 15).—Died, at Chester-le-street, aged 79, sir Thomas Conyers, bart. He inherited of this once illustrious family, nothing but the title, which expired with him. Such is the mutability of human affairs, that this man, whose ancestors were lords of Horden, and inheritors of extensive lands, broke stones upon the turnpike! and was an inmate of the poor-house at Chester-le-street, until by the benevolent exertions of the late R. Surtees, esq., of Mainsforth, who

endeavoured to rouse the attention of the northern gentry in his favour, he was removed on the 1st of March, to a situation of ease and comfort, which however he was destined to enjoy but a short time.—*See Gent's Mag. for Dec. 1809, and Suppt.*

April 23.—This being the day appointed by Simon Temple, esq., for opening his new colliery at South Shields, the morning was ushered in by the ringing of bells, &c., &c. Eight waggons being loaded with the coals, were, about one o'clock, drawn by one horse from the pit to the staith, preceded by the band of the East York militia, and followed by Mr. Temple, and a long procession of his friends, and two associations of shipwrights under their banners. Seven of the waggons in succession, were let down by a new inclined plane to the deck of the ship Maida, belonging to Mr. Temple, which was decorated with colours. The delivery of each was succeeded by a general discharge of cannon, and three times three cheers from the surrounding multitude. The eighth waggon was given to the families of the unfortunate men belonging to South Shields, who were then prisoners in France. The company then proceeded to Hylton castle, where one hundred and fifty gentlemen sat down to dinner. The high sheriff of Northumberland, the mayor of Newcastle, several of the chapter of Durham, and most of the magistrates of the district, were at the table. At eight o'clock the ball commenced. At one o'clock, near four hundred ladies and gentlemen sat down to supper; after which dancing recommenced and continued till near six, when all retired highly pleased with the entertainment and the respectful attention paid to them.—*Local Papers.*

Same day, died at Sunderland, Mrs. Douglas, in the 101st year of her age.—*Ibid.*

About this time, as sir Carnaby Hagerston's workmen were digging in Flodden field, they came to a pit filled with human bones, and which seemed of great extent; but alarmed at the sight, they immediately filled up the excavation and proceeded no further. A fine seal,

supposed to be Roman, was found here, which was in the possession of the late countess Cowper.—*Local Papers*.

1810 (May 1).—The lighthouses at North Shields, after being rebuilt were first lighted and the tide flag hoisted.—*Ibid*.

May 9.—The foundation stone of a wall to form a new street between Newgate street and Gallowgate, Newcastle, was laid by sir Cuthbert Heron, bart., under which he deposited silver and copper coins of his majesty George III. This street was afterwards called Heron street; and was much improved in 1824, by pulling down an old house which stood across it.—*Ibid*.

May 21.—A most tremendous storm of thunder and lightning visited Felton and the neighbourhood. The electric fluid entered the house of Mr. William Cowens, farmer, at east Thirston, it shivered to pieces a press-bed standing in the kitchen, and ran along and melted the bell-wires attached to three rooms; in the parlour a closet door was split. At this moment Mr. Cowens came in from the field, and his dog, which was close behind him, was killed on the spot. There was a loaded gun standing in the passage, which exploded soon after. When the alarm had a little subsided, it was discovered that the rooms on the second floor were on fire, and it was supposed that the lightning, which had been attracted by the curtain rods, had set fire to the window curtains and bed hangings. The flames were, however, soon extinguished. A great number of squares of glass in the windows were broken, and the roof of the house was penetrated in several places, but no person sustained any injury.—*Ibid*.

May 24.—The foundation of a new bridge was laid at Thropton, near Rothbury. On this occasion, the Coquetdale rangers, and Percy tenantry paraded. The rev. Dr. Watson laid the first stone, and delivered an appropriate prayer; as each stone was laid, the volunteers fired a volley. The ceremony being finished, the procession returned to Thropton, where a large party sat down to dinner, and spent the day in the greatest harmony.—*Ibid*.

May 29.—The society of Arts presented a gold medal to Mr. Isaac Jopling, senior, of Gateshead, for penetrating into the remotest corners of the North Highlands, discovering variety of marbles, working the quarries, and bringing (at great labour and expense) the produce of these almost inaccessible regions into use. The wood cut on the opposite page, by Bewick, represents correctly the obverse and reverse of this beautiful medal, which weighs 1 oz. 10dwts. and 10grs. For an interesting account of the difficulties which Mr. Jopling had to encounter, whilst working the quarries in Sutherlandshire, see the "Transactions of the Society of Arts,



&c." for 1810, vol. xxviii. p. 59.—*Local Rec.*

1810 (June 1).—Died, at South Shields, Mr. Andrew Bowmaker, aged 103 years.—*Local Papers.*

June 4.—The foundation stone of the Jubilee school, near the Keelmens' hospital, on the New-road, Newcastle, was laid by George Anderson, esq., in commemoration of the 50th year of the reign of his majesty George III., and being also the anniversary of his birth, the troops in the garrison, joined by several volunteer corps, assembled on the town-moor, and fired in honour of the day. March 4th, 1811, this school was first opened.—*Ibid.*

June 21. The foundation stone of a new charity school, near the church, North Shields, was laid with great solemnity by John Scott, esq., one of the magistrates for the county, assisted by William Linskill, Robert Laing, esqrs., and others. The rev. William Haswell, then stood upon the stone, and pronounced a benediction suitable to the occasion, after which he delivered an elegant oration. A brass plate, with an inscription, and several coins of the reign of George III. were deposited in the stone.—*Ibid.*

Same day, died at Jarrow, Mary Wolfe, aged 105 years.—*Ibid.*

July 15.—Died at Sunderland, Elizabeth Hall, aged 105 years. Her twin brother died about five years before, aged 100 years, and her mother lived to the age of 108 years.—*Ibid.*

July 23.—The foundation stone of the new courts for the county of Northumberland, in the Castle garth, Newcastle, was laid by the right honourable earl Percy, as representative of his grace the duke of Northumberland. The magistrates and a considerable number of gentlemen of Newcastle and the county assembled at the Guild-hall, at eleven o'clock, and from thence walked to the site of the courts. On the arrival of earl Percy and the procession at the site, the Percy tenantry and the Newcastle volunteers, who were drawn up in a square, presented arms, and a royal salute of twenty-one guns,

was fired from the castle. Thomas Clennell, esq., the chairman of the bench of magistrates of the county then made a neat speech, after which he presented the silver trowel to the noble earl, in the name of the justices, to lay the foundation of the building. A plate with a suitable inscription, and various gold, silver and copper coins of the reign of George III. having been deposited in a cavity cut in the stone, his lordship proceeded to the masonic part of the ceremony, after which, his lordship addressed the audience, and was greeted with a burst of acclamation. The clerk of the peace, then handed to the chairman a letter from his grace the duke of Northumberland, inclosing a donation of £3,000. towards the erection of the building, in aid of the county rates, which, his grace observed, would fall heavy on the less opulent freeholders. The chairman mounting the stone, and displaying the three bank notes of £1,000. each, explained the purport of the letter, and observed, this was another proof of the generosity of the noble house of Percy. The gift was received with three times three cheers, and on the proposition of the chairman, the letter and the thanks of the magistrates were immediately entered in the archives of the county. Another royal salute was fired from the castle, the Newcastle volunteers firing a volley after every seventh gun. The procession then returned to the Guildhall. In the afternoon, about ninety gentlemen sat down to a sumptuous dinner, at the Queen's head inn, in Pilgrim street, earl Percy in the chair. His lordship gave £50. to the workmen employed in building the courts. This and the following year, the assizes for the county of Northumberland were held in St. Nicholas' church.—*Mackenzie*.

1810 (July 26).—Died, at Newcastle, Mrs. Watkins; who on being informed that her son was fighting in the street, ran thither; and on seeing one of the men fall, exclaimed "O my son!" and immediately expired.—*Gent's. Mag.*

August 2.—A young whale, called a finner, was towed into Sunderland by a Scotch sloop, which picked it up off Holy Island. It measured thirty feet in length.—*Local Papers*.

August 7.—Whilst an act of parliament was passing for rebuilding St. Edmund's chapel, in Gateshead, which had long been in ruins, a new chapel was begun and built by subscription. It was consecrated by the lord bishop of Durham, on the above day, and an appropriate sermon was preached by the rev. John Collinson, A. M., rector of Gateshead, from 1 Tim. chap. iii. ver. 15. August 7th the following year, the burial ground of this chapel was consecrated by the lord bishop of Durham, and a sermon was again preached on the occasion by the rev. John Collinson, from Genesis, chap. xxiii, ver.

2, 3, 4. The ruins of St. Edmund's chapel were taken down in 1811, and houses for the three elder brethren were at the same time rebuilt a little to the north of the new chapel.—*Local Papers.*



OLD CHAPEL OF ST. EDMUND, GATESHEAD (1783).

1810 (Aug. 16).—An extraordinary high tide in the river Tyne, accompanied with a boisterous north wind, and a very tempestuous sea, swept away about thirty-six yards in length of the outer wall of Clifford's fort, at the east end of North Shields. Some masses of stone were carried by the force of the water, near thirty yards from the site of the wall. It also tore up and carried away some hundred tons of earth and gravel to the eastward of the fort, and destroyed the blocks which had been erected for laying down the frame of a new ship—*Ibid.*

August 23.—Died, at Seaham, near Sunderland, after a long trying, and very afflictive illness, of a consumption, Joseph Blacket, a young man of very distinguished talents, which had for the past two years engaged the care and culture of Mr. Pratt, who gives the subsequent interesting account of him in a Note in "The Lower World," a Poem, occasioned by lord Erskine's Bill for prevention of *wanton* cruelty to animals: "The public are as yet but slightly acquainted with the merits of this extraordinary young man; the only mark of his genius, *properly* before them, being "The Times," an Ode on the commencement of the year 1809; one of the most important events of which, the glorious though unfortunate struggle of the Spanish nation for its liberty, furnishing its principal subject. It was however, not undistinguished by the professional critics; and to adopt the language of one of them, "hailed as possessing many beauties

which are not to be found in many of the effusions of a highly cultivated muse ; ” and by another, “ as a bud promising future excellence, when matured by time and experience ; the age of the author being, as they (rightly) understood, little more than twenty.”—*Gent's Mag.*

1810 (Sep. 3).—The remains of a human skeleton were dug up on the bank side, near the southern end of Stephenson-street, North Shields. An old house had been pulled down near the spot, in order to enlarge and beautify the street, and within a few yards of its site, the bones were discovered ; a few years before, another skeleton was dug up near the same place. It was believed this was the old house wherein, in the year 1705, the duke of Argyle, then a resident at Chirton, near North Shields, received so many bruises in a night brawl or revel, as occasioned his death shortly thereafter. It was occupied by Paphian nymphs, and often resorted to by the noble duke.—*Local Rec.*

September 18.—The opening of the cut, or canal, made for altering the course of the river Tees, between Stockton and Portrack, was commenced at Stockton by public rejoicings. The morning was ushered in by the ringing of bells. At half-past seven, three sloops decorated with flags, &c. proceeded from Portrack through the canal, attended by the volunteer band of music, the custom-house boat, the Redcar life-boat, and a numerous assemblage of pleasure-boats, &c.; several guns were fired from the vessels as each entered into and went out of the canal, which were returned by guns placed on the quays at Stockton. When the sloops arrived at Stockton, the company's flag (most elegantly designed) was taken down from the mast head of the sloop which came up first, and conveyed through the street, preceded by the band of music, and placed on the top of the cupola on the town-hall. At twelve o'clock, the workmen were regaled with meat and drink, and at two o'clock, seventy gentlemen sat down in the town-hall to dinner, the volunteer band performing.—*Ibid.*

October 25.—This being the day which completed the half century of the reign of his late majesty George III., was celebrated at Alnwick with great splendour. The day was ushered in by the *revue* and a morning gun, when the colours were hoisted on the castle, and before noon, lord Percy's artillery, wall-piece men, cavalry, and nine companies of the rifle corps, upwards of seven hundred and fifty men, had marched into the castle, and taken post upon the saluting battery, the towers and battlements of the castle ; the other half of his lordships corps having assembled on Tyne-side. At one o'clock, a *feu de joie* was fired by each branch of the corps respectively, mingled with the loudest cheers and music. After firing, the volunteers were refreshed with cold meat and ale ; they then returned to their quar-

ters, where they were dined at the duke's expence. His grace likewise ordered an ox to be roasted in the market-place, and ale and bread to be distributed to the populace. But the better to commemorate the day, he caused the first stone of a school to be laid, capable of containing two hundred boys, the children of the neighbouring poor, to be clothed, fed, and educated under Mr. Lancaster's plan, at his grace's sole expence. On the 12th of August, 1811, being the birth-day of his royal highness the prince regent (afterwards George IV.), this school was opened, when his grace decreed, as an express clause in the endowment of this permanent institution, that the natal day of the regent should for ever after be observed as a holiday, in order that the boys, as they grow up may learn to reverence and bless that prince to whose honour this munificent establishment has been dedicated.—*Clennell's Mag.*, &c.

1810 (Oct. 25).—Was laid the foundation stone of a freemasons' Lodge, a substantial brick building, on the east side of old Elvet, Durham. A plate deposited in the foundation stone, was inscribed, "The first stone of the Granby Lodge of free and accepted masons, was laid on the 25th of October, in the 51st year of the reign of George III. A. D. 1810. Sir. Ra. Milbanke, bart. M. P., P. G. M.; Alexander Logan, esq., D. P. M.; Thomas Hardy, P. S. G. W.; John Bulmer, P. J. G. W.; Christopher Ebdon, G. A. Thomas Richardson, builder."—*Surtees*.

November 6.—The foundation stone of St. Cuthbert's lodge, in Tweedmouth (under the ancient constitution, the duke of Athol, grand-master), was laid by brother Selby Morton, acting master. In the stone was inclosed a bottle, containing several coins of the reign of George III., and some of William and Mary.—*Local Papers*.

November 13.—Died in the house of correction at Durham, where he had been confined upwards of seven years, under sentence of transportation for life, James Allan, a character well known in most parts of the united kingdom, particularly in Northumberland, where he was known by the name of *Jemmy, the duke's piper*, and was in early life a great proficient on the pipes. He was capitally convicted of horse-stealing, at the assizes held at Durham, in 1803, and received sentence of death, which was afterwards commuted to transportation for life; but on account of his age and infirmities, his sentence could not be carried into execution. He had nearly completed his 77th year. Had the chequered life of this notorious character been prolonged a little, he would have regained his liberty, as the first signature of the prince regent, officially addressed to the city of Durham, was a free pardon for Allan; but death had removed him beyond the

reach of royal clemency. Tibby Allan, his widow, died on the 27th of March, 1830, at Rothbury, aged 103 years.—*Mackenzie, &c.*

1810 (Nov. 24).—Died, in Sandgate, Newcastle, where she had resided ever since she was born, Thomasin Robinson, aged 111 years. When upwards of 100, she had her thigh broken, and perfectly recovered.—*Local Papers.*



In 1810 these two stones were found at Heddon on the Wall. The first is a mural inscription signifying that it was erected by the fourth cohort of the twentieth legion, named the powerful and victorious. The other is a centurial stone inscribed by Julius Rufus, most probably the same person who inscribed two other stones bearing the same name, and found at Denton in 1804.—*Hodgson, &c.*

At Mr. Colling's sale this year, the bull Comet was sold for one thousand guineas to four gentlemen; one of whom, Mr. Wright, of Cleasby, kept him until his death, which happened about seven years after.—*Guide to Croft.*

The Baptist meeting-house, at the west end of Walker-gate lane, Berwick, was this year built.—*Local Papers.*

This year, the north wall of Ponteland church fell; but the whole structure has since that time been repaired.—*Ibid.*

Albion-street and Albion-place, Newcastle, were this year formed.—*Ibid.*

This year, an act was obtained for making a turnpike road from Durham (through Lanchester) to Shotley-bridge. The road passes directly through the vale, instead of the old circuitous route along the heights.—*Ibid.*

Died, at Spital, near Berwick, after a life of strange vicissitudes and wonderful escapes, aged above 90, T. Gordon. It is related of him, that at one period of his life, being under sentence of death in Edinburgh gaol, one of the county magistrates, speaking warmly about the prisoner, said that "all the Gordons should be hanged." This speech was conveyed to the then duchess of Gordon, who, feeling

for the honour of the name, immediately exerted all her influence in behalf of Gordon, and succeeded in getting his sentence changed to a few years' solitary confinement.—*Mon. Mag.*

1810.—Flag-lane chapel (primitive methodist), Sunderland founded. The registers of births and baptisms 236 entries, extending from 1823 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

Silver street chapel (primitive methodist), Newcastle upon Tyne, founded. The registers of births and baptisms extending from 1824 to 1837.—*Ibid.*

1811 (Jan).—The pitmen on the river Tyne, who, for some weeks previous had been endeavouring to compel the coal owners to alter the time of the annual binding from Christmas to October, returned to their customary employment.—*Clennell's Mag.*

January 3.—Died, at Blyth, Mrs. Blakey, aged 104 years.—*Local Papers.*

February 1.—On the evening of this day, the low-light on the Farn Island was first lighted.—*Mackenzie's Northd.*

February.—In the beginning of this month, twenty laden keels were wrecked in the Tyne; crews saved.—*Clennell's Mag.*

February 23.—Died, at the High Felling, in the county of Durham, Mr. Isaac Jackson, aged 104 years.—*Local Papers.*

February 28.—Died, in Gateshead, Mr. Richard Bentley, aged 101 years.—*Ibid.*

March 2.—The Carlisle Chronicle of this date says, "Lately at Newburn, Mr. Michael Graham was married to Mrs. Ann Thirlwell. The lady was the widow of the late William Thirlwell, a butcher in Newburn; but in consequence of being responsible for her late husband's debts, she resolved that the fortunate lover who should claim her fair person as his own, should marry her in her native attire. This resolution damped the ardour of many a true lover, but the courage of the ferryman overcame these squeamish scruples and she was led to the altar and became "bone of his bone" in a state of perfect nudity."

March 6.—Died, at Kenton, near Newcastle, Mrs. Margaret Milburn, aged 104 years.—*Local Papers.*

This month, a cannon ball, weighing 96 lb., and thirty inches in circumference, was dug out of the ruins of the castle of Berwick: it had penetrated the castle wall about three yards, at a place where it had been flanked with a tower, which must have been first penetrated, and of which there were sufficient remains to ascertain the fact. This was supposed to be the identical ball which destroyed one of the principal towers of the castle, and caused its immediate surrender to the royal army in 1405.—*Ibid.*

1811 (March 12).—About ten o'clock in the evening, a carriage was overturned near Jesmond house. It had set off from the residence of James Losh, esq., of that place, but had not proceeded far, when the driver mistaking the proper turn to go along the bridge, the carriage and horses were precipitated over a low fence into the entrance of Jesmond dean, the height of at least eighteen or twenty feet. There were two gentlemen in the carriage, one of whom leaped out as the vehicle was passing over the fence, the other was carried to the bottom, and miraculously escaped any injury. The driver was severely bruised, and one of the horses died a few minutes after the accident.—*Mackenzie's Northd.*

April 10.—Died, at Aniek, in Northumberland, James Crozier, aged 101 years.—*Local Papers.*

May 22.—Whilst one of the troops of the 4th dragoon guards was assembling for exercise in the Bigg-market on the morning of the above day, a mischievous dog flew at the nose of one of the horses, which immediately began to plunge very violently, and the dog still continuing to torment it, the poor animal rearing, fell backwards over, and either from breaking a blood vessel, or receiving some other mortal injury in the fall, it bled to death upon the spot. Its rider fortunately escaped unhurt.—*Clennell's Mag.*

May 28.—The Society of Arts presented the silver pallet medal to the late Isaac Jobling, junior, for a plaster cast, a copy of the Gladiator.—*Local Papers.*

May.—Died, at Seaton, near Hartlepool, Eleanor Smith, widow, aged 107 years. She retained her faculties to the last.—*Ibid.*

June 4.—As three hundred men belonging to the 82nd regiment, then stationed at Tynemouth, were crossing in the military passage boat from North to South Shields, to fire on Whitburn sands, the boat was struck and upset by a ship entering the river Tyne, which caused considerable alarm, and might have had dreadful consequences. None of the men were lost, but many were very seriously bruised, and one died from the effects next day. Several muskets, side arms, and hats, were lost.—*Ibid.*

June 10. As some workmen were digging at the head of the long bank, Sunderland, they found a human skeleton, about two feet below the surface.—*Ibid.*

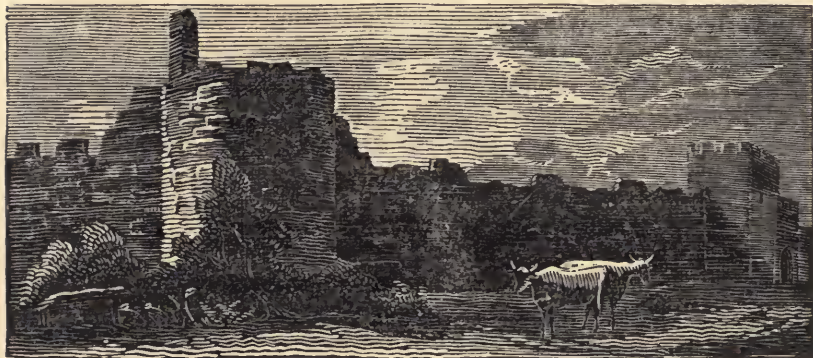
June 12.—The workmen employed in lowering the level of the pavement, near the south door of St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle, discovered, within six inches of the surface, a very perfect stone coffin. It contained some bones, and a quantity of earth; there being no cover to it, the bones were immediately buried. The coffin would contain a person of about five feet six inches high. There was an aperture

for the head of the corpse, and a perforation in the bottom of the coffin, for the purpose of keeping it dry.—*Local Papers.*

1811 (June 29).—Died, at the North shore, near Newcastle, Mrs. Sarah Gibson, aged 102 years.—*Ibid.*

July 23.—About three o'clock on the morning, a fire broke out in a stable belonging to Mr. Jonathan Bell, of Walwick, near Chollerford, Northumberland, which totally consumed the same, together with five horses and their trappings, belonging to Mr. Thomas Wright, the Carlisle carrier.—*Ibid.*

This month, in taking down that part of the town's wall, in Newcastle, which extended from Pilgrim-street to the Weavers' tower, in New Bridge-street, three cannon balls, of twenty-two pound weight each, were found lodged deep in the wall. They had been shot during the siege of that town by the Scots, in 1644.—*Ibid.*



OUTSIDE OF THE WALL AND TOWERS AS SEEN IN 1783.

July 27.—Died, T. White, esq. of Woodlands, in the county of Durham, designer of grounds; whose taste and skill in his profession, and his beautiful residence, formed by his industrious hand from a bed of heath, will be a lasting testimony of his enterprising and persevering spirit, for the planting of which, the society of arts and sciences presented him nine gold and two silver medals; and part of a larch-tree, the produce thereof, at his particular request, was converted into his coffin.—*Genl's. Mag.*

August 5.—The lord bishop of Durham consecrated a new burial-ground at Trimdon, in the county of Durham.—*Local Papers.*

August 28.—Died, at Barlow, near Ryton, Durham, John Anderson, shoemaker, aged 108 years. He died in the act of soling a pair of shoes. He enjoyed good health, and never wore spectacles.—*Ibid.*

September 14.—Died, at Lesbury, in Northumberland, aged 78

years, the rev. Pereival Stockdale, the ingenious vicar of Lesbury and Longhoughton. Being the only child of the rev. Thomas Stockdale, vicar of Branxton, and perpetual curate of Cornhill, he was nurtured with excessive care, and after being at the grammar schools of Alnwick and Berwick, he was entered of the university of St. Andrews. On the death of his father he became a second lieutenant in the 23rd., or royal Welsh Fusileers, in which regiment he served in the expedition against St. Philip, in Minorca. On his return, his regiment being ordered to India, he resigned his commission in November, 1757. Two years afterwards he was ordained deacon by Dr. Trevor, bishop of Durham; he then went to London, where he enjoyed the society of Garrick, Dr. Johnson, Dr. Brown, Goldsmith, and others of that bright constellation of genius. He afterwards became curate to Mr. Thorp, vicar of Berwick, but in a short time returned to London, and being without any church employment, he, in 1767, embarked for Italy, where he read and wrote very assiduously. After his return to London in 1769, he translated "Tasso's Aminta." The booksellers having conceived a very high opinion of his talents, he was appointed successor to Dr. Guthrie in the management of the "Critical Review." He also wrote a very elegant life of Waller the poet, for Davies, and translated for the same publisher the "Antiquities of Greece," from the Latin. In 1771, he compiled the "Universal Magazine," and two years afterwards appeared his most distinguished work, "The Poet." About this time Mr. S. became chaplain of the Resolution, guardship, of 74 guns, stationed at Spithead. During the three years he was attached to this ship, his mind was not inactive, having, besides some minor poems, composed six sermons to seamen, and translated into English, Sabbattiers' "Institutions, Customs, and Manners of the ancient Nations." He afterwards wrote an "Essay on the Writings and Genius of Pope," against the essay by Wharton on the same subject. This performance met with the approbation of Gibbon and Burke. He next wrote several political letters, signed Agricola, in the Public Advertiser, was a short time tutor to lord Craven's son, and next became curate of Hineworth, in Hertfordshire, where he wrote fifteen sermons. In 1782, he took priest's orders, and wrote his "Treatise on Education." The year following, lord Chancellor Thurlow presented him with the living of Lesbury, to which the duke of Northumberland added that of Longhoughton, in the same county. Here Mr. S. wrote his tragedy of "Ximenes," but the climate not agreeing with his health, he accepted an invitation from his friend Mr. Matra, British consul at Tangier, to pass some time with him under its more genial sky. On his return in 1790, he wrote an elaborate "History of Gibraltar," which, in a fit of despond-

ency, he committed to the flames, but he soon resumed his studies and composed two poems, "The Banks of the Wear, and "The Invincible Island," and in 1807 he completed and published his "Lectures on the Poets." His last publication was "Memoirs of Himself," which are dedicated to the ingenious Miss Porter. There is a portrait of Mr. Stockdale prefixed to his poems.—*Mackenzie, &c.*

1811 (Octo. 3).—Thomas Elliot stood in the pillory at Sunderland according to his sentence, having been convicted of an assault on a young girl. The novelty of the scene brought together an immense concourse of people, (supposed not less than twenty thousand), who behaved in the most orderly manner, hardly a single insult being offered to the convicted delinquent.—*Local Papers.*

October 12.—The estate of Andrew Robinsen Stoney Bowes, esq., at Benwell, near Newcastle, was brought to the hammer at the Queen's Head inn in that town. It was sold in lots, which, together with the wood upon the estate, amounted to about £65,000. When purchased by Bowes for about £24,000, it was considered a very dear bargain. In 1771, when this estate was advertised for sale, the mansion-house, which has since been removed, was in the most perfect condition. There had been a chapel near its south end, which, it is said, was pulled down on account of its intercepting the view from the house; a vault and a few grave stones, one of which is dated so late as the year 1759, still mark the site of the burial ground.—*Ibid., &c.*

October.—A very curious machine for cleansing and deepening Sunderland harbour was set to work. A steam-engine of great power was erected upon a floating barge, which continually drove round a number of iron buckets fastened to a chain, and which filled themselves with sand and gravel at the bottom of the harbour, and successively emptied themselves at the top of the shaft into a spout ready to receive them. This machine could lift fifty-five tons of ballast in thirty-five minutes.—*Ibid.*

This month, after much stormy weather, the high sea washed away nearly the whole of the two slips for ship-building at the Low Lights, near Clifford's fort, North Shields, together with much of the adjoining land near the fort gate. October 30th and 31st it also washed away some thousands of tons of earth and rubbish; laid bare and then tore up the foundations of an old fort, which from the nature of the cement between the stones, appeared to have existed previous to Clifford's fort, built in 1672.—*Ibid.*

November.—In consequence of the scarcity of silver coin, Mr. John Robertson, silversmith of Newcastle, issued silver tokens of one shilling and of sixpence each. Mr. R. afterwards issued others of the value of half-a-crown. Mr. Kelty, silversmith of Newcastle, also

issued silver tokens. Silver and copper tokens were likewise issued from Bewicke Main colliery office in Newcastle; by Messrs. Christopher and Jennett, booksellers, Stockton, and by various other tradesmen in the counties of Durham and Northumberland.—*Local Rec.*

1811 (Nov. 17).—The new built Scots church, in Howard street, North Shields, was opened for divine service. A very excellent and appropriate discourse was delivered on the occasion by the rev. Mr. Knox, to a crowded audience.—*Local Papers.*

December 28.—An alarming fire broke out in a house in New Pandon street, Newcastle, belonging to, and occupied by Mr. Cooke, ship biscuit baker, which communicated to the house adjoining, and terminated in the destruction of both.—*Ibid.*



WEST-GATE, NEWCASTLE.

This year the Westgate, in Newcastle, was pulled down. It was one of those strong entrances through the town-wall, and had been in former times secured with massive gates of oak beams and iron doors. This gate consisted of four wards, and was said to have been built by the munificent Roger Thornton. In the year 1782, a foot way was opened on the north side of this gate. Upon the site of this gate are built a toll-house; the house carpenter's meeting-house, and the peace and unity hospital. It was long used as a magazine for military stores. This gate had formerly been a prison.—*Mackenzie, &c.*

About this year, in the neighbourhood of Rosedean, a farm house, two or three miles distant from Lilburn Allers, near Wooler, Northumberland, noted for the frequent robberies formerly perpetrated near it, a murder was committed upon the highway, unequalled in the annals of atrocity. A journeyman mason, in returning from his work, in the glare of sunshine, was attacked by an assassin, who, after per-

petrating his murderous work, coolly exchanged shoes with his victim. He then tossed him over a dyke ; and having bent a bramble bush over the body, it was some time before it was discovered. Such hellish delight had been felt in the performance of this tragedy, that (on the authority of one of the gentlemen who sat on the coroner's inquest, for the statement) the body was perforated by twenty-one wounds, of which any one of nineteen must have proved instantly mortal. It is lamentable to add that, though the miscreant appears to have slept the following night in a field of corn adjoining the spot he has never been traced, and the blood of the murdered still calls to Heaven for vengeance.—*Border Tour.*



KEEP OF THE CASTLE, NEWCASTLE (1810).

1811.—Castle-street, Newcastle, was this year formed in order to obtain a better approach to the new County courts, by way of Bailey-gate. For this purpose the south part of the inner wall of the castle was taken down, and the base of the keep was exposed by clearing off a large accumulation of rubbish.—*Picture of Newcastle, &c.*

Population returns :—

County of Durham.....	177,635
——— Northumberland.....	172,161
——— Newcastle.....	33,723
Gateshead (Parish of St. Mary's)	8,782

1811.—Cornsay alms-houses, in the parish of Lanchester, Durham, for six poor men and six poor women, were built and endowed by the late William Russell, esq., of Brancepath castle.—*Surtees*.

Forth-street, and Orchard-street, Newcastle, were this year formed. The quay was also considerably widened opposite to the Exchange, Newcastle.—*Local Papers*.

In this and the preceding year, the chapel of St. Hilda at South Shields, which is of very high antiquity, probably nearly coeval with Jarrow church, was almost wholly re-built, except the steeple, the south and west wall, and part of the east wall; the pillars forming the north and south aisles were removed, and a single roof thrown over the whole structure; the ground floor was new paved, and a handsome uniform gallery extended round the north, south, and west. The ceiling of the whole is handsomely stuccoed.—*Surtees*.

Nowgate street chapel (Independent), Barnard castle. The register of births and baptisms extending from 1806 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

1812 (Jan. 27).—Died at Pit hill, in the parish of Chester-le-street, Catherine Aisbert, aged 104 years.—*Local Papers*.

February.—Several Roman antiquities were this month sold by a person (to all appearance a farmer) to Mr. Thomas Watson, silversmith, of Newcastle. They consisted of an oblong silver salver, about eighteen inches in length, carved round the edge; when discovered it was quite entire. A silver cup, about five inches in diameter, with only a small damage on one side; another, about the same size, was so much corroded as to fall to pieces. A long flat handle, which appeared to have belonged to one of the cups, most beautifully carved with flowers and the heads of birds, with the following inscription, inlaid with letters of gold, MATR. FAB. DVBIT.—two pieces of silver, carved and gilt, which seemed to have been the side pieces of a bridle bit. Several gold and silver rings, some set with stones, and one with an inscription. The rings were in the shape of serpents. Along with the above was discovered a number of silver coins; and a massy gold chain about eighteen inches long. The above were found in Northumberland, but the person who sold them, from interested motives, refused to give any information respecting the place.—*Ibid.*

March 15.—The new Methodist chapel in Vine street, Sunderland, was opened, on which occasion, the rev. John Slack officiated.—*Ibid.*

April 4.—The remains of the hon. lady Julia Percy, arrived in Newcastle from Alnwick. In the evening the body lay in state at the Turk's head inn, and early the next morning was again carried forward on its melancholy route to the family burial place at Stanwix in Yorkshire.—*Ibid.*

1812 (April 14).—In digging up some remains of foundations in a potatoe garden, a little to the west of the church-yard at Jarrow, a silver denarius, of Aulus Vitellius was found by the sexton of the church, embedded in mortar in the heart of the wall. The legend of it round the head is—A VITELLIVS GERMANICVS AVG., and on the reverse—CONCORDIA *Populi Romani*, with Concord seated, and holding a wreath in her right hand and a cornucopia in the left.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

April 15.—The first stone of the new work, at Hartlepool pier was laid by Carr Ibbetson, esq., amidst great rejoicings.—*Surtees.*

April 28.—Died, at Darlington, Mrs. Alice Turner, aged 103 years.—*Local Papers.*

May 2.—The public market for the sale of wheat, maslin, rye, beans, and peas, was removed from near the foot of Pilgrim-street, to the open area on the north side of St. Nicholas' church, Newcastle.—*Ibid.*

May 5.—An act for lighting and watching Newcastle, without the walls, received the royal assent, and on Saturday night, September 26th, the same year, that district, was first lighted with oil.—*Ibid.*

May 7.—This being ascension day, a very melancholy accident happened on the return of the aquatic party from Shields to Newcastle in the morning. As John Robson, a mason, one of the party, who were discharging the cannon on the top of the old castle, was in the act of reloading a gun, owing to some accident, the cartridge which he was ramming down unfortunately exploded, by which his right hand was blown off, and his body fell over the battlements of the castle, and was dashed to pieces.—*Ibid.*

May 14.—The lord bishop of St. David's consecrated a piece of ground, as additional to the church-yard of Whickham, in the county of Durham.—*Ibid.*

May 18.—Died, in New Pandon-street, Newcastle, Mrs. Margaret Clark, aged 105 years.—*Ibid.*

May 25.—About half-past eleven o'clock on the morning, one of the most tremendous explosions on record in the history of the collieries, took place at Felling, near Gateshead, in the mine belonging to Mr. Brandling, which was always considered one of the most safe in the district. Nearly the whole of the workmen were below, the second set having gone down before the first had come up, when a double blast of hydrogen gas took place. A slight trembling, as from an earthquake, was felt for about half a mile around the workings: and the noise of the explosion, though dull, was heard to three or four miles distance, and much resembled an unsteady fire of infantry. Immense quantities of dust and small coal accompanied these blasts, and rose high into the air, in the form of an inverted cone. The

heaviest part of the ejected matter, such as corves, pieces of wood and small coal, fell near the pits; but the dust borne away by a strong west wind, fell in a continued shower from the pit to the distance of a mile and a half. In the village of Heworth, it caused a darkness like that of early twilight, and covered the roads so thickly, that the footsteps of passengers were strongly imprinted in it. The heads of both the shaft frames were blown off, their sides set on fire, and their pullies shattered to pieces; but the pullies of the John Pit gin, being on a crane not within the influence of the blast, were fortunately preserved. The coal dust ejected from the William Pit into the drift or horizontal parts of the tube was about three inches thick, and soon burnt to a light cinder. Pieces of burning coal driven off the solid stratum of the mine were also blown up this shaft. As soon as the explosion was heard, the wives and children of the workmen ran to the working pit; wildness and terror were pictured in every countenance. The crowds from all sides soon collected to the number of several hundreds; some crying out for a husband, others for a parent or son, and all deeply affected with an admixture of horror, anxiety, and grief. In this calamity ninety-one men and boys perished. The few men who were saved, happened to be working in a different part of the mine, to which the fury of the explosion did not reach. After the mine had been made air tight for about six weeks, to extinguish the fire, it was again opened, and on the 8th of July the workings were entered, and the first dead body found. From various obstructions, the last of the bodies (some of whom were under six or seven feet of stone) was not found until the 19th of September. All these persons (except four, who were buried in single graves) were interred in Heworth chapel-yard, in a trench, side by side, two coffins deep, with a partition of brick and lime between every four coffins. In commemoration of this catastrophe, a neat plain obelisk is erected, nine feet high, fixed in a solid stone base. It has four brass plates let into the stone on the four sides, on which are inscribed the name and age of each of the ninety-one sufferers alphabetically arranged.—*Local Papers, &c.*

1812 (May 26).—The society of arts presented a gold medal to Mr. Thomas Machell, of Wolsingham, Durham, surgeon, for the invention of an annular saw, which cuts deeper than its own centre, well adapted for the division of cylindrical bones, surrounded by muscles, blood-vessels, or nerves, and with less injury to those parts than by any other instrument in use.—*Ibid.*

The same day the society of arts presented a gold medal to the rev. Dr. F. Haggitt for his improvement of fifty acres of waste land, at Pittington, near Durham.—*Ibid.*

1812.—About this period, the greater part of the old Manor-house at Mitford, Northumberland, was taken away. Though it had been built at different times, says Hodgson, none of it, I apprehend, was very ancient. It was probably first occupied by the Mitford family when they acquired an accession of property here in the time of Philip and Mary; and the tower, and other additions might be made to it, in 1637, which is the date of the tablet above the door bearing the arms of Mitford empaling Wharton.—*Hist. of Northd.*



OLD MANOR HOUSE, MITFORD.

June 8.—The public market for the sale of bread, oat-meal, vegetables, fruit, and gingerbread, was removed from the Sandhill to a plot of ground on the south side of the new Butchers' market. These stalls were without any covering until the year 1831, when they received this very necessary addition.—*Local Papers.*

June 15.—The freemen of Durham, in consequence of several encroachments, perambulated the boundaries of that city, a custom which had been neglected since the inclosure of the adjacent moors. The procession set out from the town-hall at 10 o'clock:—the grassmen on horseback, attended by the banners of the various trades, the city waits (music), drums, beadle, &c.—*Ibid.*

June 25.—The races on the town-moor, Newcastle, were attended by one of the most numerous concourses of spectators ever remembered. Just as the last heat for the gold cup was finished, the temporary stand belonging to the White Hart inn, being very much crowded, gave way in the middle and involved nearly one hundred

persons in the crash. About forty persons were seriously hurt, and about twelve dangerously, several of them having limbs broken. The medical gentlemen who were on the ground gave their ready assistance, and many of the sufferers were admitted into the grand stand, or accommodated with carriages from thence. A woman named Smith was seriously injured, she being below at the time of the accident. Mr. Redhead, *senior*, of Walker, Mr. Blackbird, of Newbottle, Mr. Fiddler, a midshipman, a pitman called "*The Duke*," and sir H. Vane Tempest's groom, had all limbs broken: Mr. Moffit, of Newcastle, Mr. Allison, of Whitburn, and several others were seriously bruised. Mrs. Wylam, the proprietor, was hurt in the shoulder. A quantity of the stock of wines, spirits, and ale, was destroyed. Mr. Redhead and Mr. Allison afterwards died of their wounds.—*Local Papers*.

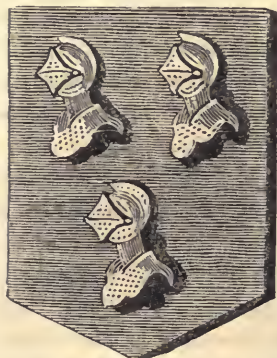
July 20.—The chapel at Gibside, Durham, completed by the right hon. earl Strathmore, was consecrated with great solemnity by the lord bishop of Durham. This elegant edifice, which was commenced building by George Bowes, esq., in the year 1760, as a chapel and mausoleum, is ornamented with a portico and dome highly embellished. It stands at one end of a most beautiful terrace in front of the mansion-house; the other extremity is terminated by a wood, out of which rises a fine column of stone surmounted by a figure of liberty, built in 1756.—*Ibid*.

August 6.—The high sheriff of Northumberland, Mr. Bates, of Milbourn hall, the judges of assize, and a large attendance of gentlemen, went in procession along Bailey-gate and Castle-street, Newcastle, to the new county courts to open the commission. They had not gone this way before for perhaps some centuries, having from time immemorial gone to the moot hall by that dark, narrow, and dangerous passage called the Black-gate.—*Ibid*.

August 10.—The foundation stone of the Exchange, Town-hall, &c., at Sunderland, was laid with masonic honours, by the provincial grand lodge for the county of Durham. Sir H. V. Tempest, bart., (in the absence of sir Ralph Milbanke, bart.) P. G. M. *pro tem*. The procession went from the Phoenix hall, preceded by the Sunderland volunteer infantry. A plate with an inscription having been deposited in the stone, the usual ceremonies were gone through, after which the volunteers presented arms. After the P. G. chaplain had delivered an oration, the volunteers fired three volleys in the air. The procession then returned to their lodge, and elected their officers for the following year. At three o'clock, the brethren, gentlemen of the committee, and others, to the number of nearly two hundred, sat down to an excellent dinner in the Phoenix-hall, sir H. V. Tempest,

bart., in the chair, who that day distinguished himself by various acts of liberality. May the 26th, 1814, this elegant structure was opened to the subscribers, on which occasion, in the absence of the president, J. G. Lambton, esq., M. P., the chair was taken by John Davison, vice-president, who addressed the meeting: this was followed by an address from the rev. J. Hampson, both of which were very ably delivered. This building cost £8,000, subscribed by individuals in £50 shares: half of the ground was purchased from sir H. V. Tempest, bart., for £600, and the lease of the other moiety was obtained for sixty-three years, under £10 rent.—*Local Papers*.

1812 (Aug. 17).—Died, in Gateshead, Isabella Sharp, at the great age of 114 years. It appeared by the baptismal register of that place, that she was christened August 17th, 1698.—*Ibid*.



August 23.—Died, sir John Eden, bart., of Windleston, M. P. for the county of Durham, in the years 1774, 1780, and 1784. Sir John was for nearly fifty years an active magistrate and chairman of the Quarter Sessions. He succeeded his father in the baronetcy in 1755; and married, first, Catherine, daughter of John Thompson, of Kirby-hall, Yorkshire; secondly, Dorothea, sole daughter of Peter Johnson, esq., recorder of York, by whom he had issue three sons and

nine daughters.—*Sharp's Knts. of Dur., &c.*

August 25.—Died, in the poor-house at Berwick, Janet Skinner, a poor insane woman who lived twenty-five days without eating any victuals; she afterwards began to eat, but grew worse daily.—*Gent's Mag.*

August 31.—The Newcastle associated volunteer infantry presented their colonel, sir M. W. Ridley, bart., with a magnificent piece of plate, as a token of the high estimation in which they held his conduct as their commanding officer. At two o'clock, the regiment assembled in Pilgrim-street, from whence they marched to the moor, attended by a great concourse of people. Having passed their colonel in review, the regiment formed three deep, was wheeled forward and formed a circle, in the centre of which the vase being placed, lieut.-col. Ridley stepped forward, and addressed sir M. W. Ridley in the most appropriate language, to which the colonel made a suitable reply. The ceremony of presentation being over, the regiment greeted him with three times three cheers, in which they were joined by the company present. The regiment was then wheeled back into line, when they fired a *feu de joie*, the guns on the castle

firing a salute. They then advanced in line, and made a general salute to their colonel. Before the regiment was dismissed, the companies were presented with ten guineas each by the colonel, to regale themselves with on the occasion. The bells of St. Nicholas' church continued to ring at intervals during the day. In the latter part of which, a magnificent dinner was served up in the assembly-rooms, to the officers and a large party of visitors. Besides the officers of the regiment, there were present the mayor and principal members of the corporation of Newcastle; the general officers and staff of the northern district; the commanding officers of the cavalry, artillery, engineers, and militia then in Newcastle, and of the different volunteer corps, &c., in the neighbourhood, besides a great number of visitors, making in all a party of one hundred and thirty-two. The vase presented on this occasion was of silver, of an elegant Etruscan form, and was nearly two feet high. The sides were ornamented with military trophies and the arms of Ridley; its cover was surmounted by an elegant female figure, representing the town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. It was of the value of £350.—*Local Papers*.

1812 (Sep. 23).—Died, at North Shields, Daniel Todd, aged 64 years; an eccentric character, well-known by the name of *Lord Blake*.—*Ibid*.

September 26.—Died, at New York, of a dropsy, in his 57th year, George Frederick Cooke, the celebrated tragedian. Mr. Cooke was born at Berwick-upon-Tweed, and brought up as a printer; but, having been induced to play Horatio in Hamlet, the approbation he received induced him to give up his profession and apply himself to the stage.—*Gent's Mag*.

October 6.—A coal pit at Shiney-row, in the county of Durham, took fire, by explosion of inflammable air, and one man and six boys were severely scorched.—*Gent's Mag*.

October 10.—An explosion took place at Herrington-mill pit, when nineteen boys and four men were killed. Many others were severely burnt and wounded.—*Ibid*.

October 21.—There was a remarkably high tide at Shields. About sixty feet of the wall of Clifford's fort were again swept away, and the Northumberland life-boat house was entirely broken to pieces. Some hundreds of masts, buoys, &c. were carried away, and the water flowed into many of the houses in North Shields. It also flowed upon the new quay, and reached the doors of the warehouse.—*Local Papers*.

November 18.—Some workmen employed in a quarry at Byker-hill, near Newcastle, on splitting a huge block of freestone, nearly three tons weight, found a living toad in the middle of it. The cavity that

contained the animal, to which there was no passage, was the model of its figure, and was lined with a black substance, suffused with moisture.—*Local Papers*.

1812.—The new building in Claypath, in the city of Durham, was this year opened for the Blue-coat and Sunday schools.—*Surtees*.

The Anti-burgher meeting-house, near the middle of Church-street, Berwick, was this year built.—*Mackenzie*.

This year, the bridge was built over Pandon-dean, Newcastle, and Bridge-street formed.—*Local Papers*.

About this year, in forming drains at the northern extremity of the slake at Hartlepool, about five feet beneath the surface, several holes or graves, about eight feet square, were discovered, filled with human bones; trees also, the wood of which was found in excellent preservation, together with the antlers of deer, and an immense number of teeth, which, on being examined with attention, were supposed to have belonged to these animals.—*Surtees*.



PART OF THE WALL AT HARTLEPOOL.

Bondgate chapel (Wesleyan Methodist), Darlington, Durham founded. The registers of births and baptisms 157 entries, extending from 1812 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

Wesleyan Methodist chapel, High-street, Gateshead, Durham, founded. The registry of births and baptisms 756 entries, extending from 1812 to 1837.—*Ibid.*

Wesleyan Methodist chapel, Carville, Wallsend, Northumberland, founded. The registers of births and baptisms 139 entries, extending from 1813 to 1837.—*Ibid.*

Wesleyan Methodist chapel, Old Elvet (parish of St. Oswald's), Durham, founded. The registers of births and baptisms 187 entries, extending from 1813 to 1837.—*Ibid.*

1813 (Jan. 28).—Between four and five o'clock on the morning, a fire was discovered in the house of Miss Rudd, in Moseley-street, Newcastle, which had a most alarming appearance; but by the timely

arrival of the engines belonging to the Newcastle and Royal Exchange fire-offices, and the great exertions of the fire-men, it was happily extinguished soon after seven o'clock, though not before considerable damage was done to the house, and to Miss Rudd's stock of millinery. A party of the Royal Bucks militia attended with the greatest promptitude upon the occasion, and were of service in protecting the property and in keeping off the crowd.—*Local Papers*.

1813 (Feb. 6).—The Antiquarian Society of Newcastle was established, when the purport of its institution was declared to be "Inquiry into Antiquities in general, but especially into those of the North of England, and of the counties of Northumberland, Cumberland, and Durham, in particular."—*Ibid*.

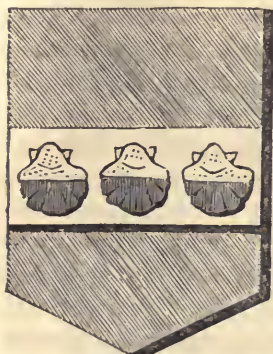
Same day, the wind corn-mill, of Mr. Watson, near South Shields, was burnt down. The fire was occasioned by violent friction.—*Ibid*.

February 18.—A sailor, named Bell, belonging to the *Close*, in Newcastle, was impressed, and safely lodged in the house of rendezvous. In the evening, his sister (a young woman under twenty) formed the resolution of attempting his escape, and for that purpose went to take "a long farewell" of her brother, who was to be sent off to the tender in the morning. She was readily admitted to an interview, and, in order to prevent the possibility of escape, brother and sister were bolted and barred in a room by themselves, for a few minutes. During this short space, the parties changed clothes, and, on the door being opened, the young man, apparently "snivelling and piping his eye," walked off unmolested in female attire, while his sister remained to fill the situation of a British tar. It would be difficult to describe the rage and disappointment of the gang, on discovering how they had been duped; and crowds of persons went to see the heroine, who received to the amount of several pounds from the spectators, as a reward for her intrepidity and affection. She was soon restored to her liberty by order of the magistrates.—*Eur. Mag*.

This month, a fire broke out at the New Mills, belonging to the corporation of Berwick, occupied by Mr. John Forster, which burnt two barley mills, and one grey stone mill, and a quantity of oatmeal, before it was got under; but by timely assistance, it was prevented from reaching the flour mills and principal buildings.—*Local Rec.*

March 31.—The labourers employed in removing the hill of earth called the Mount, near the castle, in Newcastle, found the skeletons of two men, about a foot and a half below the surface; one of them was lying with the face downward, and from the freshness of its appearance, would seem to have not been buried many years.—*Local Papers*.

1813 (Mar.)—Died at Todholes, near Elsdon, Northumberland, Mr. Wm. Snowdon, farmer, aged upwards of 100 years.—*Local Papers*.

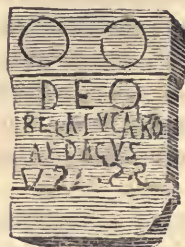


April 1.—At the quarterly court of the Infirmary of Newcastle, an excellent full length portrait of William Ingham, esq., painted in consequence of a subscription by his private friends, was presented to the institution, as a testimony of respect for his valuable services to the charity as surgeon, during thirty-three years. The painting, which is admirably executed, is by Mr. Nicholson, of Newcastle. Mr. Ingham died November 26th, 1817. There is a

very fine print of Mr. Ingham, engraved at the expense of his family, and presented to particular friends.—*Ibid*.

April 6.—Died, in High Friar-street, Newcastle, William Gantney, aged 102 years. He had been sixty years an out-pensioner of Chelsea hospital.—*Ibid*.

April 12.—Died, at Great Whittington, in Northumberland, Sarah Robson, aged 104 years. She reaped in the harvest field in her 102nd year, and retained her faculties to the last.—*Ibid*.



April 13.—These were presented to the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle, by Mr. G. A. Dixon, four Roman remains, three of which are represented in the margin. The first, an altar found at Brougham castle, dedicated to the god Belatucadro, by Audaeus. This word Belatucader or Belatucadro, is supposed to be formed of two words signifying the invincible and omnipotent Baal. The second, a rude head of Pan, found at Caervorran; and the third, the lower part of an altar found at Old Penrith, with an inscription almost illegible. And the fourth has already been figured and described under the year 1760. It was found at Caervorran and engraved (but incorrectly) by Hutchinson in his View of Northumberland.—*Arch. Aeliana*.



April 15.—An act for improving the pier and port of Hartlepool, received the royal assent. It had long been in a ruinous state. This year also, a life-boat was established at Hartlepool.—*Local Papers*.



1813 (April 16).—Died, at his house in Portland-place, London, after an illness of two days, sir Matthew White Ridley, of Blagdon, in Northumberland, bart., in the 67th year of his age. May 3rd, he was interred in the family vault in St. Nicholas' church, Newcastle.—The concourse of sorrowing spectators on this melancholy occasion was very great. He was the representative of Newcastle in eight successive parliaments, also for many years an alderman of that corporation. He commanded the loyal Newcastle associated volunteer infantry, from its first establishment in 1798, to the period of the general dismissal of the volunteers in 1813. He was one of the oldest members of the merchants' company, and at the period of his death, had been thirty-five years its governor. In 1819, a beautiful monument to his memory by Flaxman, was placed in the nave of St. Nicholas' church. It displays in very high relief a full length figure of the deceased, as large as life, dressed in a Roman toga, and standing in a graceful and dignified attitude, with other attributes, together with a shield charged with the family arms. There is a large portrait of sir M. W. Ridley, bart., engraved by Fittler, from a painting by Hoppner. Lady Ridley, died August 3rd, 1806. On the 18th, the body arrived in Newcastle, from London, and was interred in the family vault in St. Nicholas' church, the day following.—*Local Papers.*

April 16.—George Wilson, of Newcastle, the celebrated pedestrian, whilst confined for debt in the gaol of Newgate, in that town, undertook for the trifling sum of three pounds one shilling, to walk fifty miles in twelve successive hours, within the prison walls. A small flagged yard, measuring thirty-three feet by twenty-five and a half, was chosen as the stage of action. This he performed four minutes and forty-three seconds within the time stipulated, being an uncommon effort in so circumscribed a situation, having taken 10,300 turns to make up the distance, at four turns to each round. He walked the last six miles in one hour, twenty minutes, and forty seconds. Since that time, this man has done various feats in pedestrianism in London, Newcastle, and other places. There are various portraits of this pedestrian both in wood and copper; the former have accounts of his different pedestrian feats underneath. After his memorable struggle with the Blackheath magistrates, a life of him was published in London in 1815, 8vo. with a portrait aged fifty.—*Ibid.*



NEWGATE, NEWCASTLE (1813).

1813 (May 7).—Died, at Fowberry Tower, in Northumberland, in the 79th year of his age, George Culley, esq., the eminent agriculturist and breeder. Mr. Culley, assisted by Messrs. Bailey and Pringle, drew up the “Agricultural Survey of Northumberland, Cumberland, and Westmoreland.” 8vo. 1805.—*Local Rec.*

May 12.—Died, in the poor-house at Sunderland, Mr. Thomas Hunter, aged 104 years. He had formerly been a sea captain.—*Ibid.*

May 25.—The society of Arts presented a gold medal to William Backhouse, esq., of Field House, near Darlington, for planting 300,000 larches, and 50,000 other timber trees, on waste ground; and to Jonathan Backhouse, jun. esq., of Darlington, for planting 271,000 larches, a silver medal.—*Local Papers.*

The same day, the society of Arts presented the lesser silver medal to Thomas White, esq., of Woodlands, in the county of Durham, for his application of larch bark to answer all the purposes of oak bark in tanning leather.—*Ibid.*

June 9.—A handsome school-house, built at an expense of nearly £300, was opened at Heighington, in the county of Durham. The school was originally founded in 1601, by Elizabeth Jennison, of Walworth, widow of Thomas Jennison, esq.—*Surtees.*

June 11.—Died, at Barnardcastle, Mr. Cuthbert Vasey, farmer, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers.*

June 13.—A new methodist chapel was opened at Stockton, and two appropriate discourses were delivered by the rev. T. Lessey, to upwards of 2,000 people.—*Ibid.*

1813 (June 23).—The foundation stone of a new bridge over the river Allen, near Allendale smelt-mill, was laid by colonel Wentworth Beaumont, with the usual ceremonies. In the centre of the stone were deposited several coins of George III. The colonel and a party of his friends afterwards partook of a cold collation with the committee; and on retiring he gave £21. towards the erection of the bridge, and £5. to the workmen employed in building it.—*Local Papers*.

July 6.—Died, at Fulham, near London, in the 79th year of his age, Granville Sharp, esq. This venerable character was born at Durham, on the 10th of November, 1735, O. S. He retained the vigour of his mind and body till within a short period of his dissolution, and, without any symptoms than those of natural decay, terminated a life which had been actively devoted to the best interests of liberty, religion, and humanity.—*Gent's Mag.*

July 17.—An unfortunate accident happened by fire damp, at Collingwood Main colliery, on the river Tyne, by which eight men were killed, and two severely burnt. Several horses also suffered.—*Local Papers*.

July 28.—Died, in Gateshead, Mary Gold, aged 101 years.—*Ibid.*

August 1.—Died, after a short illness, universally beloved and lamented, sir Henry Vane Tempest, bart., only son of sir Henry Vane, L. L. D. prebendary of Durham, baronet, by Frances, daughter of John Tempest, of Old Durham, esq., and sister, and at length sole heir of John Tempest, of Old Durham, esq., M. P. In the year 1794, sir Henry Vane Tempest, was elected for the city of Durham, at a time when, from his long absence in a foreign country, his precarious health, and the total want of intelligence, the knowledge of his existence was rendered extremely doubtful. This honourable testimony of respect towards his family was always acknowledged by him with pride and gratitude. In 1807 he was returned with sir Ra. Milbanke, to represent the county in Parliament. Every succeeding year increased the confidence of his constituents, and afforded him fresh opportunities of proving that he was not unworthy of their choice, by his unremitting attention to their interests. On the dissolution of parliament in 1812, he was again returned without opposition; this honourable re-election and universal regret expressed at his death, are the best and surest proofs of the purity and fidelity with which he discharged the important trusts committed to his care.—*Sharp's Hartlepool*.

August 9.—About six o'clock in the evening, a fire broke out in the paper-hanging manufactory of Messrs. Goodlad and Co., situated in a yard opposite the Cross-house, in Westgate-street, Newcastle.

This manufactory occupied part of the second story, and all the upper part of the building, and, with its contents, was entirely consumed. Considerable damage was sustained in the stable and warehouses of Mr. R. Pearson, drysalter, which were on the ground floor in the same building, and to whom the premises belonged. Mr. Hodgson, a coach-maker, whose work-shop was in the second story, also suffered considerable loss.—*Local Papers*.

August 27.—As the workmen of Messrs. Hawks and Co. were trying some new ordnance, they, by some accident, missed their intended mark, and the ball went over into Gateshead, struck the stone in front of Mr. Roddam's house, broke eleven panes of glass, and fell into the street without other mischief.—*Ibid*.

September 1.—Died, at Heddon-on-the-Wall, Mrs. Ann Rutherford, aged 102 years.—*Ibid*.

September 2.—An ingenious and highly interesting experiment was performed in the presence of a vast concourse of spectators, on the railway leading from the collieries of Kenton and Coxlodge, near Newcastle, by the application of a steam-engine, constructed by Messrs. Fenton, Murray, and Wood, of Leeds, under the direction of Mr. John Blenkinsop, the patentee, for the purpose of drawing the coal waggons. About one o'clock the new invention was set a-going, having attached to it sixteen chaldron waggons loaded with coals, each waggon with its contents weighing four tons or thereabouts, making altogether an aggregate weight little short of seventy tons. Upon perfectly level road, the machine so charged, it was computed would travel at the rate of three and a half miles per hour, but in the present instance its speed was short of that, owing, no doubt, to some partial ascents in the railway. Under all the circumstances, it was very highly approved of, and its complete success anticipated. After the experiment was finished, a large party of gentlemen connected with coal-mining partook of an excellent dinner provided at the Grand Stand for the occasion, when the afternoon was spent in the most agreeable and convivial manner.—*Ibid*.

September 21.—Died, at South Shields, Mr. William Bell, miller, aged 100 years.—*Ibid*.

September 28.—The Hall Pit at Fatfield colliery, in the parish of Chester-le-street, fired from the foul air, and thirty-two men and boys were killed.—*Ibid*.

October 6.—The rev. John Hodgson presented to the Antiquarian society of Newcastle, a Styca of the Northumbrian sovereign, Ecgfrith, who acceded in 670, and was killed by the Piets in 685. The coin in question was one of several found in the chapel yard of Heworth, in the county of Durham, enclosed in a small vessel of red earthen-

ware, slightly ornamented. The Styca is a small copper coin of extreme curiosity, as it precedes any other known issue of the Northumbrian mint nearly 150 years. Of those found as above, about a dozen of the most perfect were preserved. The vessel in which they had been deposited was also presented to the above society.—*Surtees*.

1813 (Oct. 10).—The Wesleyan Methodist chapel, on the New-road, Newcastle, was opened for divine service, and collections were made towards the building, amounting to nearly £90. Part of this building was afterwards used as a granary, but the whole building is now again used as a place of worship. The registers of births and baptisms commence in 1797.—*Rep. of Parl. Com., &c.*

October 18.—Died, in Newcastle, aged 55 years, Mr. Isaac Garner, printer. He was the author of many poetical pieces of considerable merit, which appeared in different journals, among which are "The Hind, or a voyage to the West Indies," "The Splendid Guinea," "Sonnet to the Rainbow," &c. These pieces particularly attracted public notice.—*Local Rec.*

November 3.—The members of the Antiquarian society of Newcastle, held their first meeting in an apartment in the castle of that town, called the kings chamber, which had been fitted up for their use by the corporation. The first part of the Society's transactions was published in Newcastle in 1816, under the title of *Archæologia Æliana*.



THE KING'S CHAMBER.
1819.

CHAPTER VI.



IN the month of November, 1813, after a heavy rain, the hilt of a Scottish dagger was found at Eachwick in Northumberland. General Lesly had his camp on Throckley-fell, his own quarters on Heddon-law, where, with glasses, he saw all passing within the English camp, opposite Newburn, on the south side of the Tyne. His soldiers drank a well dry, never done before, and took all the cattle at Eachwick, but gave receipts for them. It was near the above spring this hilt was found. It is of buckhorn, ornamented with figures of the rose, crown, thistle, &c., from which, as well as from the place of its discovery, it is conjectured to have belonged to a Scottish dagger or dirk, not older than the days of James I.—*Spearman's MSS., J. Bell's Col.*

November 11.—Died at Collingwood Main, near North Shields, Mrs. Richardson, aged 104 years. She retained all her faculties to within a few weeks of her death.—*Local Papers.*

About three o'clock on the morning of the same day, a fire broke out in a wooden tenement, in a garden, in Pandon Dean, near Vine-lane, Newcastle, occupied by a person named Brown, a house carpenter, as a workshop and dwelling room. All the clothes, tools, furniture, and stock in trade of the sufferer were consumed.—*Ibid.*

November 15, and the following day, the Northumberland militia passed through Newcastle, on its route to Scotland. The van division of the regiment, which was headed by lieutenant-colonel Coulson, was, on its entrance into the town, greeted with a salute of guns from the castle, the bells of St. Nicholas' church rang a peal, and every demonstration of joy was displayed, in compliment to the "*Lads of*

the Tyne." The crowds of people assembled to meet them were immense. Dean-street was completely blocked as they marched up. The regiment had not been in Newcastle for upwards of ten years. June 24th, 1814, this regiment was disembodied at Alnwick; they had been in actual service upwards of eleven years.—*Local Papers.*

1813 (November 20).—An alarming fire broke out in a building adjoining to Clavering-place chapel, in Newcastle, which was entirely consumed, with its contents, including a valuable library belonging to the society. By great exertions, the chapel and the neighbouring houses were saved from conflagration. An extensive library in Mr. Cuthbert's house adjoining was greatly injured, and at one time the fire had caught the roof of the chapel.—*Ibid.*

November 29.—Edward Moises, aged 16 years, only son of the rev. Edward Moises, M. A., and Christopher Hesleton, aged 17 years, were unfortunately drowned in the new water pond on the town-moor, Newcastle, from the ice giving way, whilst skating upon it. There is a neat mural monument to the memory of the former put up in the vestibule of All Saints' church, within which is introduced his watch, standing at the time when it was stopped by the water.—*Ibid.*

November 29.—Sunderland was illuminated three nights, to commemorate, the glorious news of Holland and Hanover being free. On the above night, the town shone with great brilliance, when were displayed numerous devices and transparencies of "ORANGE BOVEN," "WELLINGTON," &c. &c. The only drawback to the general joy was the demolition of numerous windows which were not lit up.—*Ibid.*

November.—A pitman removing a stone from the bottom of the engine pit, at Cowpen colliery, at the depth of 10½ fathoms, received a blow on the face from some animal, which was lurking underneath. The terrified pitman, after some time recovered himself, and calling others to his assistance, they attacked the enemy, which proved to be a fine silver eel twenty-two inches long.—*Ibid.*

December.—At Jarrow colliery, a large stone fell on two pitmen, and crushed them to death.—*Gent's Mag.*

December 15.—In celebration of lord Algernon Percy having attained his twenty-first year, the bells of the different churches in Newcastle were rung through the day. The morning was ushered in at North Shields by a discharge of twenty-one guns in the Market-place. At noon, the Percy volunteer cavalry, commanded by captain Coward, paraded in the Market-place, and fired a *feu de joie*, which was returned by a round of twenty-one guns. At sun-set another discharge of twenty-one guns took place, after which there was a grand dinner at Mrs. Carr's, the Northumberland arms inn; William Linskill, esq., in the chair. His lordship was at this time serving his

country in the royal navy, stationed in the Mediterranean sea.—*Local Papers.*

1813 (Dec. 22).—There was a grand dinner at the assembly-rooms in Newcastle, in commemoration of the deliverance of Holland from French oppression, and of the series of brilliant successes which had attended the arms of England and those of her allies. About six o'clock the company, consisting of two hundreds, sat down to dinner, the right worshipful the mayor of Newcastle in the chair. The outside of the building was literally covered with variegated lamps, with the words "ORANGE BOVEN" in gilt letters. A transparency of the "*Dutch Night-mare*" representing Buonaparte asleep in his tent, with a huge Dutchman seated upon his breast, smoking his pipe, excited considerable curiosity.—*Ibid.*

December 24.—About half-past one o'clock on the morning, an explosion took place in Felling colliery, by which nine men and thirteen boys were hurried into eternity, several others severely burnt, and all the under-ground horses but one destroyed. The accident occurred at the time of calling course, or when one set of men were relieving another. Several of the morning shift men were standing round the mouth of the pit, waiting to go down, when the blast occurred, and the part who had just descended met it soon after they had reached the bottom of the shaft; these were most miserably burnt and mangled. Among the unfortunate sufferers were the two overmen of the colliery, Mr. William Haswell and Mr. Thomas Morrows, and two of the deputies, Mr. Robert Stoves and Mr. Martin Greener. The deceased men left eight widows and eighteen fatherless children.—*Gent's Mag.*

December 28.—In a pit belonging to Mr Burdon, of Hartford, a man named Nicholson, upon whom a large stone fell while ascending the pit, had his head cleft in two, and died instantly; while another, in the same loop, had his thigh dreadfully lacerated, but kept his hold both of the rope and of the dead man till they reached the top. Two men at the bottom of the pit were also injured.—*Ibid.*

The church of Elwick, in the county of Durham, dedicated to St. Peter, was this year considerably repaired, and the leaden roof exchanged for slate. It is a picturesque, grey structure, with a low massy tower and buttresses.—*Surtees.*

This year, died, at Barnardcastle, Hugh Maclaine, aged 104 years.—*Local Papers.*

Bethel chapel (Independent) Darlington. The register of births and baptisms, extending from 1813 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

1814 (Jan. 15.)—The frost was so intense, that the river Tyne, at Newcastle, was completely frozen over. The temptation to indulge in

skaiting was not to be resisted; and on the above day (Saturday) a Dutch seaman put the strength of the ice to the test, by passing over it with beef bones tied to the soles of his shoes, and a long pole of wood in his hand, that in case the ice had broken under him, he might have supported himself with the pole until assistance had been afforded him. Numbers soon afterwards ventured upon it, and the next day, notwithstanding it snowed very hard almost the whole time, the skaiters were numerous, and continued their diversion till the evening. On the Monday and Tuesday, the ice having been swept by the keelmen, who, by this means, endeavoured to raise a little money to maintain themselves whilst laid off work by the frost, the number of people who ventured upon the ice was very great, and even ladies graced the scene with their presence. The skaiters were very numerous, and amongst those who delighted the spectators by their grace and expertness in this most elegant exercise, were particularly noticed Cuthbert Ellison, esq., M. P. for Newcastle, and Messrs. Gibson, Horne, Bigge, Smith, &c. The ice, after these two days, was covered with such a quantity of snow as to render skaiting impracticable. The snow being reduced by a quantity of rain which fell, became afterwards so frozen as to present once more an uncommonly thick surface of ice. Of this opportunity numbers availed themselves; the river, for several days, continued to be covered with crowds of people, amusing themselves in different ways upon its surface. Several booths were erected upon the ice, for the sale of spirituous liquors, and some fires kindled. The immense thickness of the ice removing all fear of danger, numerous parties, of all ages, ranks, and both sexes, were to be seen in every direction, perambulating its glassy surface, and enjoying the novelty of the scene. Several races took place, both with and without skates, for prizes consisting principally of different pieces of wearing apparel, as hats, stockings, &c., but in one instance, of the substantial comfort of a *leg of mutton*! These afforded great amusement. On other parts of the ice, parties might be seen playing at foot-ball, quoits, &c., and in other directions, fruit and cake sellers, fiddlers, pipers, razor-grinders, recruiting parties, &c., were to be met with. In short, the whole scene more resembled a country wake or fair, or the vicinity of a race-ground, than anything else to which it could be compared. From the brilliancy of the moon, which was then at full, the sports were continued each night to a late hour. Another partial thaw took place, but a very sharp frost succeeding, the same scenes and amusements were renewed. On one day, a horse and a sledge were upon the ice, and on another, a horse and a gig. Both getting on and off the ice was attended with some difficulty, the edges being so broken by the rising and falling of the

tide. Gangways were laid down at different places, to remedy this inconvenience, and a toll being exacted from every person who passed over, became a source of revenue for those persons who were deprived of employment by the frost. Each gangway was attended by four men, who were changed every day. The average thickness of the ice was about ten inches; in some places there was a double ice. The sheet which admitted of skating extended from Redheugh to the Glass-house bridge, though the navigation of the river was completely closed, as far down as St. Peter's quay. On Saturday the 5th of February a permanent thaw commenced in the neighbourhood, and in the night of Sunday, the ice broke up in the Tyne about Newcastle bridge, happily without causing much damage. On Monday and Wednesday the masses floating down the river, nearly choaked the harbour at Shields; but, few ships being in the port, trifling damage was sustained.—*Local Papers.*



NEWCASTLE FROM THE TYNE, ABOVE BRIDGE (1814).

At Berwick, fifty gentlemen dined in a tent fixed on the ice on the river Tweed. One of the company was present at a similar fete held on the Tweed in 1740.—*Gent's. Mag.*

1814 (Feb. 8).—Died, at Tweedmouth, aged 94 years, James Robinson, an eccentric character, commonly called *Jemmy Dumps*. He was a drum-major at the battle of Preston, in 1746, and was highly offended when told that he ran away on that day. He gained his livelihood by leading coals and sand, and attending to farmers' carts, on the High-street at Berwick. He slept in the same apartment with his

asses, and had not lain on a bed for twenty-two years.—*Local Rec.*

1814 (February).—This month, two swords were found at Ewart Park, near Wooler; they seemed to be a compound of brass and copper, the handles quite wasted by time. They were twenty-one inches long from the handle to the point, and were found in a perpendicular position, as if stuck down on purpose. One of them was presented to the Antiquarian society of Newcastle, by Mrs. St. Paul, of Ewart Park.—*Local Papers.*

February 20.—Died, at Polam Farm, near Darlington, John Yarow, aged 110 years. He was a native of Mason Dinnington, in Northumberland; was a servant to a farmer near North Shields, in 1715; and remembered assisting at the plough when the constables went into the field, and demanded the horses to convey military stores during the rebellion. He was able, the preceding summer, to cut turf in a field, as well as to attend to many domestic and rural occupations; his diet chiefly consisted of bread, milk, and cheese.—*Ibid.*

February 23.—Died, at Capheaton Clock-mill, Mrs. Margaret Tours, aged 104 years.—*Ibid.*

February 28.—Died, in Pilgrim-street, Newcastle, Mrs. Mary Taylor, aged 103 years. She possessed all her faculties to the last moment, and walked about on the morning of her death.—*Ibid.*

March 6.—As the sexton was digging a grave on the north side of Chatton church, he found a stone coffin about ten inches below the surface. It was secured and neatly covered with three stones. In the coffin were the remains of a human body. The skull was nearly perfect, and the teeth of the upper jaw were a full set; the thigh bone measured eighteen inches; but the skull was nearly full of water. The earth being carefully examined, one of Robert Bruce's silver pennies was found, also a steel spur, and several relics of ornamental brass and iron work, supposed to be the remains of the helmet of the warrior who had been interred in the coffin. The rev. Joseph Cook, of Newton hall, vicar of Chatton, offers the following remarks on the discovery of this ancient stone coffin. "In 1318, Robert Bruce and his adherents had been excommunicated by the Pope for contumacy to his highness's messengers, and having assaulted and taken the fortress of Berwick, as well as those of the castles of Wark, Harbottle, and Mitford, and laid waste all the intervening country, it is probable that this warrior, now alluded to, fell at this juncture; and that the vicar of Chatton, on the strength of the above-named anathema, refused sepulture to his remains in any other part of the consecrated ground, than that of the north side of the church, the place in those times allotted, I believe, for the unhallowed interment of excommunicated unfortunates.—*Mackenzie's Northd.*

1814 (March 12).—As some labourers were at work on the summit of a green hill, in the farm of Old Earle, near Wooler, they struck into a complete urn of baked clay, unglazed, inverted on a flat stone, a little inclined. Some fragments of a human skull, and other bones, in a sound dry state, and a thin piece of flint, were found under the urn. The small end of the urn was not a foot below the surface, with a few stones remaining over it.—*Local Papers*.

April 5.—An explosion took place in Howdon pit, Percy Main colliery, when four human beings lost their lives.—*Ibid*.

April 7.—Died, at Barnardcastle, aged 82 years. William Hutchinson, esq., F. S. A., clerk of the lieutenancy of the county of Durham, whose death was preceded only two or three days by that of his wife, aged 78 years; they were both interred in the same grave. Mr. Hutchinson had distinguished himself by the publication of three county histories, 1. "A View of Northumberland, with an Excursion to the Abbey of Mailross, in Scotland," 1776, 1778, 2 vols. 4to. 2. "The History and Antiquities of the County Palatine of Durham," 1785, 1787, 1794, 3 vols. 4to. 3. "The History of the County of Cumberland, and some places adjacent, &c. &c.," 1794, 2 vols. 4to. He also published "An Excursion to the Lakes in Cumberland and Westmorland," 1776, 8vo." "The Spirit of Masonry," 12mo., and various dramatic and miscellaneous works. There is a small portrait of Mr. Hutchinson on the title page of the Spirit of Masonry, also on the same plate with that of George Allan, esq., of the Grange, F. S. A., which forms the frontispiece of the 8th volume of Nichols Literary Anecdotes.—*Gent's Mag*.

April 9.—Died, at Sunderland, Mary Pearson, aged 101 years.—*Local Papers*.

April 13.—The city of Durham was illuminated on account of the news of the surrender of Paris to the Allies. On the morning, a great number of red, white, and orange flags were hoisted out of the windows in the different streets, which had a very good effect. The signal for lighting was given by the bells of the cathedral, and the other churches beginning a merry peal at eight o'clock, and in a short time after, the whole city and suburbs were apparently in a blaze. The fountain in the college was tastefully decorated with coloured lamps, &c., as was also the town-hall. The many transparencies and devices which were exhibited at the principal houses, shewed an uncommon degree of taste. An effigy of Buonaparte, mounted on an old horse, was carried through the streets, and at length brought to the market-place and committed to the flames.—*Ibid*.

May 1.—Petitions to parliament, from Newcastle, against any alteration in the corn laws, were transmitted to the members of par-

liament for that town. They were signed by 11,500 persons, and filled ninety skins of parchment.—*Local Papers.*

1814 (May 3).—The foundation stone of the Independent chapel in Chester-le-street, was laid. The register of births and baptisms, extending from 1813 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com. &c.*

May 9.—Samuel Walker Parker, esq., entertained a large party to supper, &c., at his house at Low Elswick, near Newcastle. The Shot Tower was illuminated both inside and out with coloured lamps; round the galleries, &c., on the outside, and placed at intervals quite up the winding staircase in the inside; the *tout ensemble* had a fine effect. A considerable quantity of excellent fire-works was discharged from the field behind the works, and considerably heightened the pleasure of the scene. The Shot Tower was also illuminated.—*Ibid.*

May 10.—Having been fixed for the illumination of Newcastle, on account of the peace of Europe, it was a day of general joy, and the town was crowded with strangers. Precisely at twelve o'clock the right worshipful Thomas Smith, esq., mayor, the recorder, aldermen, sheriff, town-clerk, and the other officers of the body corporate, attended by the stewards, and a numerous company of the free burgesses, went in procession from the Guildhall to the Westgate, to lay the foundation stone of a new hospital for indigent freemen and their widows. Upon the procession coming in view of the castle, a salute of twenty-one guns was fired, which was returned with loud cheering in the open area fronting St. Nicholas' church. The procession then moved forward to the site of the building, and the arrangements having been previously made, the town clerk read the inscription engraved upon a plate of brass, which being deposited, the mayor laid the foundation stone in due form, and then standing upon it, congratulated the immense assemblage of spectators on the combination of charity and public happiness in the business of the day. Mr. Joseph Clark then followed, and after a neat speech, proposed that the building should be called "The Peace and Unity Hospital." This was agreed to, and loudly cheered. The procession then returned in form to the Guildhall, where it separated. At half-past eight o'clock in the evening, the signal for illuminating was given by a gun from the castle, and the town was presently in a blaze of light. Never before was such an illumination seen in Newcastle. The weather also was favourable, dark, dry, and calm; and though the streets were crowded to excess, through the precautions taken by the mayor, all disorder was avoided; not a gun was fired nor a squib let off. Many persons wore white cockades; the number of variegated lamps was very great, and probably the devices, serious and hum-

ourous, exceeded four hundred. At twelve o'clock a gun from the castle, announced the time for extinguishing the lights. Not less than between forty and fifty thousand people were in the streets, many of them from a great distance, and coaches and boats, with passengers, were seen leaving Newcastle at eleven and twelve o'clock at night.—*Local Papers*.

1814 (May 12).—North Shields was most brilliantly illuminated in honour of the peace.—*Ibid*.

Illuminations and other rejoicings took place at South Shields, at Berwick, Belford, Darlington, Stockton, Sunderland, and the other towns in Northumberland and Durham; each town vying with the other in testifying their loyalty by various elegant transparencies and mottoes.—*Ibid*.

May 14.—Saturday Mr. Edward Wiggan, farmer, near Bedlington, was arrested in Newcastle, for a debt of twenty-one pounds, and safely lodged in gaol. At the time of his arrest, he gave assurance that he would not long be in confinement, and on Tuesday, the 17th attempted his meditated escape in a manner which scarce affords an example of similar foolhardiness. Whilst walking with the other debtors on the top of the prison, he mounted the parapet next to Gallowgate, where the wall was fifty feet high, and leapt off in the hope of reaching a dunghill which lay at about five yards from the wall of the prison. He succeeded in reaching the outer edge of the dunghill, in which he sunk up to his knees, and it was perhaps owing to this circumstance that none of his bones were broken by the fall, but he was so dreadfully shaken, that on taking him up, no hopes were entertained of his recovery. He finally surmounted the injury.—*Ibid*.

May 19.—The Tyne Steam Packet, the first built upon that river for the conveyance of passengers, &c., between Newcastle and Shields, commenced its course. Being Ascension day, it joined the procession of barges, &c., and was a great novelty. It was afterwards named "The Perseverance." There are now (1843) one hundred and nineteen steam packets plying upon the Tyne.—*Local Rec. &c*.

May 31.—The society of Arts presented a gold medal to Mr. Edward Backhouse, of Darlington, for planting 363,600 larches on waste land.—*Local Papers*,

Same day, the society of Arts presented a silver medal and ten guineas to Mr. William Martin, of Wallsend, Northumberland, for his invention of a spring weighing machine. This very ingenious and self-taught mechanic was born at the Tow House, near Haltwhistle, in Northumberland, and is brother of Mr. John Martin, the celebrated painter and engraver, and also of Jonathan Martin, who



is of considerable notoriety for having set fire to York cathedral. Mr. William Martin claims the original invention of the safety lamp; he has also made various models of bridges, railways, &c. &c., which prove him to be possessed of great mechanical ingenuity. In the year 1821, he published "A New System of Natural Philosophy, on the Principle of Perpetual Motion," with a portrait, 8vo. This very curious work, in which he *refutes* sir Isaac Newton's Philosophy, is replete with visions, dreams, robberies, &c. &c. This variously talented man has engraved several copper and steel plates; he is also a Poet! and has published "A New Philosophical Song or Poem Book, called the Northumberland Bard, or the Downfall of all false Philosophy," 1827, 8vo. He has repeatedly lectured in Newcastle and the neighbouring towns and villages, on his own system of Natural Philosophy. In June 1830, he undertook a lecturing tour through England, and returned in the summer of the following year, and, he says, with success, nobody daring to defend the Newtonian system. Mr. Martin is a writer upon almost every subject, and has drawn forth attacks from

numerous anonymous scribblers; these he treats with great contempt, always boldly signing himself "William Martin, Nat. Phil. and Poet." The above portrait is engraved from Mr. Parker's painting of the philosopher.—*Local Rec.*, &c.

1814 (May).—Died at Ovingham, in Northumberland, Mrs. Johnson, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers*.

May.—A society, of which sir Ralph Milbanke was president, was instituted, under the patronage of the duke of Northumberland, and many of the nobility and gentry of the north, having for its object the prevention of those sudden and disastrous explosions in coal mines, of which the melancholy effects have been so frequently experienced. Part of their plan was to publish a report, containing a comprehensive view of the modes of ventilation then practised in the north of England, and also, if their funds would enable them, to offer premiums for the best treatises, or any further important discovery or improvement, which might effectually promote the object they had in view.—*Gent's Mag.*

June 2.—The skeleton of a man was found at the depth of thirty fathoms, in an old pit at Chirton, near North Shields. The discovery excited much curiosity. The duke of Argyle, who resided at Chirton, in the reign of William III., built a small house of undressed stone, in a shrubbery, which was afterwards converted into a brothel. About the year 1784, a young seafaring man disappeared, and was never more heard of. One of the inmates of this house, vulgarly called *Cushet Hall*, remembered a young man being rudely taken away from her by three men on the Newcastle road, and he was supposed to have been thrown down the pit near the house. The pit was then being filled up by order of the owners; the rubbish had filled it to within about thirty or forty fathoms of the top, and the workmen proceeded and entirely closed it. The owners of Collingwood Main having occasion for a shaft there, caused the rubbish to be cleared out, in doing which the skeleton was discovered. Several of the ribs were broken. The soles of the shoes were very perfect.—*Local Rec.*

June 11.—Died, John Erasmus Blackett, esq. senior alderman of the corporation of Newcastle, and father of lady Collingwood.—*J. Bell's Col.*

June 20.—Died, in Sandgate, Newcastle, Ann Corby, aged 105 years, who, till within a year of her death, earned her subsistence by selling vegetables. She retained her mental faculties till her death.—*Local Papers*.

June 25.—At noon the right worshipful the mayor of Newcastle, attended by the other officers of the corporation, and preceded by the

mace, sword of state, &c., and trumpeters, walked in procession from the Guildhall to proclaim the peace, which was done by the town-marshal, upon the Sandhill, and afterwards in the Wheat-market, in Newgate-street, and in the Castle-garth. The procession was loudly cheered by the populace, and saluted by a discharge of guns from the castle, and peals of bells from St. Nicholas' church.—*Local Papers*.



BLACK-GATE OF THE CASTLE, CASTLE-GARTH (1820).

1814 (June).—Died, at North Shields, Mr. William Robson, aged 101 years.—*Local Papers*.

July 20.—South Shields was visited by a tremendous thunder storm, which occasioned considerable damage. The electric fluid entered the house of Mr. Oliver, in Albion-street, and passed along the bell wires into two or three rooms, in one of which a bedstead, bedding, &c. were literally burnt to ashes, but, fortunately, the fire was extinguished without doing further harm. The dwelling-house of Mr. Hodge, adjoining Mr. Oliver's, was also much injured, several of the chimnies were thrown down, and the roof considerably damaged. Happily no part of either family received the slightest injury. A

person in Mrs. Errington's, the Black bull public house, high end of the town, was struck during the storm, but not materially hurt; at the same time, the clock in the room where he sate, was very much shattered.—*Local Papers.*

1814 (July).—When Chesterhope common was divided, and the new fences were making to it, Mr. Shipley, who now farms Fourlaws, and the colliery there, found several gold beads in a cairn on the east side of Watling-street, and on the allotment of common which was sold by Mr. Reed of Chipchase to Mr. Shanks of Whitstone-house. Only a small portion of the cairn, about a square yard of the centre of it, was left when Mr. Shipley began to remove its remains, and the beads were found scattered, loosely about among the stones of it; and two bronze hoop-bracelets, each about the thickness of a goose's quill, and one of them much corroded, were found with them. Fourteen of the beads were sent to Alnwick castle; a few of them dispersed among persons in the neighbourhood; and a few more have been found amongst the moulds on the site of the cairn, after heavy rains. They are of thin gold, and of the form represented in the margin.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

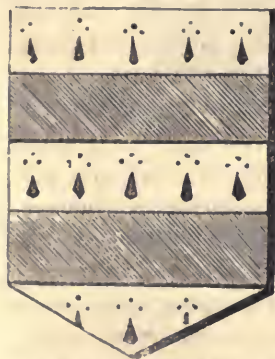


July 28.—Between two and three o'clock in the afternoon, whilst the atmosphere was obscured by a dense fog, the town and vicinity of North Shields was visited by a violent storm of thunder and lightning. In its commencement the thunder rolled with awful grandeur until it nearly attained its climax, when the hearing became suddenly stunned by a tremendous crash. The lightning struck the house of Mrs. Wilkinson, the Bull-ring inn, broke several tiles, descended from the upper story to the next, forced out a number of bricks, damaged the window boards, entered the apartment beneath, and broke a bullion square of glass in the shop window of an anchor-smith adjoining. The grandson of Mrs. Wilkinson was slightly struck by the electric fluid and much terrified; fears being entertained on account of the servant who had been employed in the upper story, some persons proceeded to the spot, when they were much shocked on finding the poor girl sadly scorched on her side and neck, her voice was enfeebled; her clothes were considerably burnt, and her pockets torn off. She eventually recovered. The lightning also struck and materially injured the warehouse of Messrs. Coward and Johnson, from whence directing its course to the house of Mrs. Wealands adjoining, it entered

a clock which stood at the head of the stair-case, which it shivered to fragments, leaving the metal work uninjured ; proceeding from the clock, the lightning burst the door frame near which Mrs. W. was standing, threw the opposite door off the hinges, and in its descent broke the four wooden supporters of a bird-cage without injuring the bird, or appearing to have even touched the wires. The glass of the window through which it made its final exit, was shivered to pieces. Two boats were sunk on the south side of the river. During the most considerable part of the night there was lightning and thunder, and the rain descended in torrents.—*Local Papers.*

1814 (Aug. 10).—A grand masonic procession took place in Newcastle, on account of the union of the Athol with St. Nicholas' lodge. Therewere about six hundred in the procession, amongst whom were sir J. E. Swinburne, bart., P. G. M., sir M. W. Ridley, bart., M. P., Cuthbert Ellison, esq., M. P., William Loraine, esq., Isaac Cookson, esq., the rev. John Collinson, rector of Gateshead, the rev. Mr. Wasney, &c. In consequence of the vicar of Newcastle having refused the use of St. Nicholas' church, the procession marched to Gateshead church, where they heard divine service, after which £112. 16s 10d. was collected for the benefit of the Newcastle infirmary. Two hundred and fourteen of the brethren afterwards dined at the Turk's head inn.—*Ibid.*

August 12.—A melancholy accident happened at Hebburn colliery, near Newcastle. Elias Mould, under-viewer, had descended one of the pits, with the deputies and overmen, to change the course of the air for ventilation, when the pit fired, and himself and ten others were unfortunately burnt to death.—*Ibid.*



August 14.—Died, in Parliament-place, Westminster, Edward Hussey Delaval, esq., of Doddington, in Northumberland, aged 85 years. Mr. Delaval was a man of very distinguished genius and merit. He was M. A. and fellow of Pembroke-hall, Cambridge, and an excellent classical scholar. Chemistry and experimental philosophy were his favourite pursuits. In 1750, he was elected a member of the Royal society, and in 1765 was complimented with

their gold medal, for a paper which he read to that illustrious body. The literary and philosophical society of Manchester also voted him their gold medal for his philosophical researches ; and the royal societies of Upsal and Gottingen, and the institute of Bologna, unsolicited, enrolled him amongst their members. Mr. Delaval corresponded,

and was in habits of intimacy, with most of the scientific characters of his day.—*Mon. Mag.*

1814.—In the summer of this year, some workmen discovered, on the northern side of the southern peak of the Tunstall-hills, near Sunderland, about six feet from the base, a rude sepulchre, formed of common limestones, and covered with the same materials. On the floor were deposited the fragments of three urns of very rude and inelegant form, ornamented with a zigzag; and all of them containing a rich dark mould, in which were interspersed small fragments of bone, and some human teeth.—*Surtees.*

August 25.—There were upwards of 10,000 salmon in Berwick market, which had been caught in the river Tweed.—*Local Papers.*

September 8.—Died, in London, Mr. Thomas Spence, a native of Newcastle, author of several curious political works. Mr. S. devised and published a plan by which all human kind could be provided with sustenance without pauperism. In 1801, he underwent a state prosecution, was convicted, and endured a year's incarceration, and was also subjected to a fine, of which he ever after boasted, and used to say it would be the means of one day ushering his doctrines into universal notice. His remains were attended by a numerous throng of political admirers. Appropriate medallions were distributed, and a pair of scales preceded his body, indicative of the justice of his views. One of his friends made an oration over his grave illustrative of his public and private qualities. Upon Mr. Spence's principles a sect was founded, called "The Spenceans."—*Local Rec.*

September 9.—An explosion took place in the Leafield colliery, in the parish of Chester-le-street, which killed four men, and much injured five others.—*Ibid.*

September 10.—The first number of the Durham county Advertiser was published in Durham, by the firm of Francis Humble and Co. This was originally "The Newcastle Advertiser," and, after having had various owners, it was removed to Durham. It is at present published by Mr. Francis Humble.—*Ibid.*

September 20.—A grand musical festival commenced at Newcastle, which continued for three days. The performances consisted of three grand oratorios in St. Nicholas' church, and three miscellaneous concerts in the theatre. On the last day there were between two and three thousand persons at the church, and the theatre was crowded to excess. The receipts exceeded £2,300; one-fifth was given to the infirmary. Every one who partook of the mental treat expressed the utmost satisfaction at the wonderful powers of Madam Catalani and Mr. Braham.—*Local Papers.*

October 8.—About three o'clock on the morning, a fire was discov-

ered in the farm-yard of Mr. Ralph Atkinson, of South Gosforth, near Newcastle, which destroyed the whole of the hay, amounting to about one hundred and fifty tons, together with eleven corn-stacks. The fire originated from the heating of the haystacks. The thrashing machine was also much damaged.—*Local Papers*.

1814 (Oct. 22).—An inquest was held at Bishopwearmouth pans, on the body of Margaret Poole, who had poisoned herself by purposely taking a large quantity of laudanum. The coroner's verdict was "Felo de se," and in consequence she was buried in the public highway, on the 24th, in the presence of a great concourse of spectators.—*Ibid*.

October 28.—Died, at Cleasby, near Darlington, Ann Donnel, aged 105 years.—*Ibid*.

November 8.—A new bridge built over the river Till, near Red Scar, in Northumberland, fell with a tremendous crash. The architect, who was below, removing some props, was unfortunately killed, being buried in the ruins.—*Ibid*.

November 11.—Died, in the Manor chare, Newcastle, Mr. William Middleton, aged 101 years.—*Ibid*.

November 19.—Died, at Stockton-upon-Tees, aged 70 years, vice-admiral Nathan Brunton. He first entered the navy in the year 1771, and served on board the Marlborough, as an able seaman; master's mate on board the same ship; and on the 19th of September, 1777, was promoted to be a lieutenant; on the 21st March, 1782, to be a commander; in 1783, to be a post-captain; in 1805, was made a rear-admiral of the blue; in 1810 a vice-admiral of the blue; and on the 4th of June, 1814, to be a vice-admiral of the white. The infirmity of deafness, having greatly increased, was the reason why he could not be employed in the latter period of his life in more active service. His gallantry, and intrepidity in command, were well known; and he sustained the honest character of a British sailor in the most honourable manner.—*Brewster's Stockton*.

November 27.—Died, at Percy Main, near North Shields, Mrs. Mary Tulip, spinster, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers*.

December 8.—Died, at Hexham, Mary Porch, aged 100 years.—*Ibid*.

December 10.—Died, at his house in Somerset-street, Portman square, London, in the 81st year of his age, the rev Dr. Scott, rector of Simonburn, in Northumberland. This very popular divine was a native of Leeds. He published ten Occasional Sermons, also three Seatonion Prize Poems, &c., which exalt him high as a poet. As a public speaker he had scarce an equal, and his compositions were of the most elegant kind.—*Local Rec*.

1814 (Dec. 16).—A great hurricane commenced about sun-rise, and continued through the whole day, which did great damage in Newcastle and the neighbourhood. About eight yards of the parapet wall, which surrounds the roof of All Saints' church, was blown into Silver-street; and a large stone urn was blown from the steeple, and fell at the head of the Butchers' bank. A window also of that church one of St. Nicholas', and one of Hanover-square chapel, were blown in. Stacks of chimnies in the houses of George Waldie, esq., S. W. Parker, esq., Dr. Headlam, Mr. Turner, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Bell, and many others, were blown down, and falling on the roofs, completely destroyed them. A house belonging to Mr. Charles Turner, in Pilgrim-street, had the roof and two upper stories entirely destroyed. The high brick wall that enclosed Mr. Croser's garden in the Shield-field, was blown down into the lane. The fury of the tempest was most conspicuous in the vicinity of the river Tyne, which, swelled by the rains, came rolling down like a sea, and beating with fury against the bridge, the spray was carried forward by the wind into the lower parts of the town, where it fell with all the effect of a shower of rain. The ships at the quay were obliged to strike their topgallant-masts, and not a boat durst venture on the river. A sailor was blown from the mast of a vessel at the Quay, and, falling on the deck, was killed on the spot. Two wherries were upset in the river, from both of which the people were saved. Another, laden with cinders, was swamped near the Close. Several keels were also swamped, and the crews of several which were overtaken on their passage by the storm, were obliged to throw the greater part of their coals overboard, to save themselves from sinking. Carr's-hill and Gateshead-fell, from their exposed situations, particularly felt the effects of the storm. A great part of Jarrow church was unroofed and many yards of a high garden wall at Westoe, belonging to William Ingham, esq., was blown down. The same gentleman had a hay stack blown down and scattered by the wind in all directions. Many other stacks shared the same fate, and several trees were torn up by the roots. At North Shields, several houses were unroofed, and numerous chimnies, walls, &c., were blown down. Many keels and wherries were sunk, and a keel belonging to Messrs. Nichol and Ludlow was crushed to pieces. One man fell from a keel near the New quay, and was drowned in the sight of several persons who could render him no assistance. A keel was driven out to sea with its crew on board, who, after great exertions, happily succeeded in reaching Holy Island in safety. A garden-wall, of brick, thirty yards long, near Bedford-street, with the fruit-trees, was laid flat, almost in a mass. At Durham, and the vicinity, much damage was done. A

stack of chimnies in lord Barrington's house, in the college, being blown down, fell upon the roof, through which it penetrated into the best lodging-room, destroying the bed, and forcing its way into the drawing-room below. Another stack of chimneys fell from the house of Dr. Gray into the college. At the new school in Claypath, large slates were blown to a distance of sixty yards: no person received any injury. At Sunderland the gale blew with indescribable fury. About one o'clock, a garden wall, on the east side of Nile-street, Bishopwearmouth, was blown down, and Mr. George Cameron, a very respectable master mason, of Sunderland, who was passing by at the time, was so severely wounded on the head, that he only survived three hours. The bricks flew with such violence across the street as to break several squares of glass in the houses on the opposite side. Several houses in Sunderland and the neighbourhood were entirely unroofed, and numbers were partially so.—*Local Papers.*

1814.—Died at Whitley, near North Shields, Eleanor Gibson aged 108 years.—*Ibid.*



When the workmen were, this year, forming the gears of Fawdon staith, at Wallsend, they met with much Roman masonry, and coins, a little above high-water mark. A very curious cauldron for heating water in was, also, laid open, and removed. It was square on the outside, and oval within, measured three feet deep, and five feet across one way and six the other, and was lined with a fine smooth and hard coat of cement, about an inch thick. (*Hodgson's Northd.*) The annexed

representation of a piece of Roman pottery, found at Wallsend, is copied from an engraving in Brand's History of Newcastle.

Henry Collingwood Selby, esq., of Swansfield-house, near Alnwick, erected, on a commanding eminence called the Camp-hill, a little to the south of his mansion, an elegant stone column, to commemorate the victorious efforts of Britain and her Allies, during the late war, and the restoration of peace to Europe, in the above year. On the square tablets of the four sides are suitable inscriptions.—*Mackenzie.*

A handsome cross was this year erected at Corbridge, at the expense of the late duke of Northumberland. In 1809, the old cross was taken down, and was in possession of the late George Anderson, esq., of Newcastle, who placed it in the Nun's-field, behind his house;

but in 1828, when this piece of ground was thrown open to the public, it was again taken down.—*Local Rec.*

1814.—The spire of Potter-gate tower, in Alnwick, was this year taken down, by order of the chamberlains and common council of the borough. It bore a striking resemblance to the steeple of St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle. The tower, which was sixty feet in height, was erected on the site of the old gate, in the year 1768.—*Mack.*

An act of parliament was obtained, this year, for enclosing the borough lands or town fields of Gateshead, amounting to one hundred and fifty-seven acres.—*Surtees.*

1815 (Jan. 2).—The front of a house situated on the Bank-side, in the Castle-garth, in Newcastle, tenanted by five families, fell down, and its inhabitants were placed in the greatest danger. Fortunately, however, a ladder was near the place, by the assistance of which, the children were taken out of the upper window from their perilous situation.—*Local Papers.*

Under this date occurs the following entry in the register of Seaham, in the county of Durham:—"George Gordon Byron, Lord Byron of Rochdale, and Anne Isabella Milbanke of this parish, were married in Seaham House by special licence 2 Jan. 1815, by me Tho. Noel, Rector of Kirkby Mallory, Leicestershire, in presence of John Cam Hobhouse, of Chauntry House, Wilts, and Richard Wallis, Vicar of Seaham."—*Sharp's Chron. Mirabile.*

January 15.—Died, at Park-house, near Morpeth, Mr. George Jewit, dyer and bleacher, in his 100th year.—*Local Papers.*

January 20.—Died, at South Shields, James Sheriff, seaman, aged 100 years.—*Ibid.*

January 29.—Died, at Framlington, in Northumberland, Mrs. Thompson, aged 101 years.—*Ibid.*

February 4.—Died, near Hexham, Mrs. Eleanor Charlton, aged 99 years; her brother George, died at Birtley, aged 103 years; another brother, James, at Hexham, aged 97; and her sister Elizabeth, died at Wark, aged 100 years.—*Ibid.*

February 4.—Died, at East Sleekburn, near Morpeth, Mr. Stephen Watson, farmer, aged 101 years.—*Ibid.*

March 5.—The Newcastle petitions against the corn bill, were this day (Sunday) sent off to London. There were three petitions, each sixty yards long, which contained twenty-five thousand five hundred signatures, all signed within the short space of two days.—*Ibid.*

March 6.—Died, in Framwellgate, Durham, Jane Maddison, aged 100 years.—*Ibid.*

March 17.—Died, at Shadforth, near Durham, Mary Paddison, aged 103 years.—*Ibid.*

1815 (March 20).—In the afternoon, a number of misguided persons, principally keelmen and casters on the river Wear, assembled in a riotous manner near Sunderland, and determined to pull down the bridge which had been erected across Galley's gill, near Bishopwearmouth, for the purpose of conveying the coal-waggon's belonging to Messrs. Nesham and Co. to the staiths below. They then proceeded to their work of destruction; and having entirely pulled down the bridge, set fire to the staiths at the head of the bridge, and burnt all the machinery which was erected there for the purpose of conveying the waggon's down the inclined plane to the spouts, where the coals were put on shipboard without the intervention of keels. They also pulled down one house, and unroofed several others. Matters continued thus till a late hour at night, when a party of horse arrived from Newcastle, and dispersed the mob. One man was killed by some of the falling timbers striking him. These tumultuous proceedings originated in an idea, that other similar staiths were about to be erected upon the Wear, in consequence of which, there would not be so much employment for keelmen and casters. The injury done was estimated at £6,000.—*Local Papers*.

April 6.—Died, at Norton, near Stockton, Ann Cumming, aged 101 years.—*Ibid*.



NORTON CHURCH, DURHAM (1830).

May 3.—A dreadful catastrophe occurred at Heaton main colliery, near Newcastle, by the breaking in of a quantity of water from the old workings, to which the pitman had unhappily approximated too closely. The workings of the colliery at this time were in one of the lower seams, at a very great depth, having a considerable dip or inclination from one side to the other, the shafts being on the lower side. The upper and neighbouring seams had formerly been wrought as a

colliery, under the name of Heaton Banks, by shafts distinct from the present workings, and which shafts when the colliery was given up, were covered over with boards and earth. In the course of time these old workings had become entirely filled with water. The miners were taking precautions at the time, it appears, to let off the expected influx of water by driving a drift in a direction to perforate the old workings near Heaton Burn. At four o'clock on the fatal morning, Mr. Miller, the resident or under-viewer, visited the men engaged in this operation, and a dripping of water from the roof being pointed out to him, he gave directions that the work should be squared up; and said he would send in the borers to ascertain whether the water proceeded from the waste of the old collieries or not. In less than a quarter of an hour after, the water began to run more freely through the chink; and the two drifters, becoming rather alarmed, sent their boy to apprise two other men who were working near them, with the state of the mine, and to acquaint all the men in the pit with their danger. The youth, probably impelled by fear, made the best of his way to the shaft, and escaped. The two workmen first mentioned, had now quitted the face of the drift, and presently after, a frightful crash, accompanied by a violent gust of wind, which extinguished the candles, warned them that an immense torrent of water was rushing into the mine: they fled precipitately towards the working-shaft, distant about a mile; and as the water of course flowed first down the lowest level, reached it just in time to save their lives. The two men who were working near them, the boy just mentioned, and fifteen other men and boys who were on the roly-way, were so fortunate as to make their escape, but not till the last was up to his waist in water. Every possibility of retreat to those left behind was now cut off; and seventy five human beings, (forty-one men and thirty-four boys) including Mr. Miller, were shut up in the workings towards the rise of the colliery, either to perish by hunger, or to die for want of respirable air. The sufferers who thus found a living grave, left twenty-four widows and seventy-seven orphans, besides Mrs. Miller, and her eight children, to deplore their untimely fate. Exertions were immediately made to reach the spot where the men were supposed to be, from some other workings, but without success, as the shafts of the old workings were choaked up by the earth, &c. which covered their mouths when deprived of the support of the water, having fallen in, dragging after it many trees which had been planted in their vicinity. Attempts were made in front of Heaton-hall, to endeavour to reach the old workings through a shaft which had not fallen in, but these also were unavailing, on account of being filled with inflammable air. Three large engines (one of one hundred and thirty horse power) were incessantly

employed in endeavouring to draw the water from the pit, but without effect, as the water in the shaft amounted at first to nineteen fathoms, but it subsequently gained upon them, from which it appeared that some internal reservoir had burst into the pit. At three o'clock on Thursday, it stood at thirty fathoms. During the night the water gained upon the engines, notwithstanding they discharged 1,200 gallons per minute. The water in the lowest shaft was plumbed early on the Friday morning, when it was found to be thirty-three fathoms.—In the distance between the back of Heaton and Benton-bridge, seven of the shafts belonging to the workings of an old colliery on Heaton Banks, fell in, presenting most frightful chasms. Of many of these, the surface exhibited not the least vestige, nor was their existence known in the neighbourhood. The old colliery is said to have been discontinued on account of the influx of water, which was so great, that seven engines, of the construction of that day, could not get the better of it. The first steam-engine used in this part of the country was erected at Heaton, and most probably on this colliery. From various difficulties, the bodies of these unfortunate men were not arrived at until upwards of nine months from the time of the accident. On the 6th of January 1816, the first human body of the sufferers was brought to bank, in a state of great decay, but ascertained, by the neckcloth, to be that of William Scott, between 70 and 80 years of age, who attended one of the furnaces. Of a knife which the deceased had in his pocket, the haft only (of bone) was entire, the blade being entirely corroded by the mixture of the pyrites in the mine with the water. His watch was also nearly destroyed by the same cause. It may, however, afford some speculation to the curious, that the articles of linen on the deceased were quite fresh and uninjured, but those of woollen fabric entirely destroyed. In a few weeks afterwards, the remains of the rest of these unfortunate men were found in different situations in the workings of the pit. February 20th, thirty-nine of the bodies, forming a melancholy procession, were interred in trenches in the south-east corner of Wallsend church-yard. Many of the bodies, when found, were nearly naked, and all in a state of great decay. They appeared to have all perished by starvation. They had got into a part of the pit where the water did not reach them, and had been many weeks employed in endeavouring to work their way into an old pit, by which they might have escaped. They are supposed to have failed in their attempt by the want of food to support them, as every horse in the pit was eaten to the bone. The unfortunate men had a water mark fixed up, that they might observe if it fell. One man, who is supposed to have been set to watch it, was found dead at his post.—*Local Papers. Gent's Mag. &c.*

1815 (June 1).—Died, in the workhouse of Chester-le-street, Mrs. Allen, aged 104 years.—*Local Papers*.

June 2.—At five o'clock in the afternoon, a dreadful explosion took place in the Success pit, near Newbottle, in the county of Durham, belonging to Messrs Nesham and Co. At the time the accident happened, seventy-two men and boys were at work in the pit, and though the flame did not ascend the shaft, yet a large column of dust plainly indicated to the workmen above ground the sad catastrophe that had happened. Immediate exertions were made to save, if possible, the lives of those in the pit, in which they so far succeeded as to bring all the bodies to bank by the morning of the 4th. Very few of the bodies were disfigured, and in many life was still extant; several of whom, shocking to relate, died the moment they breathed the fresh air! Of the seventy-two in the pit, fifteen survived, some of whom were severely hurt. Of nineteen horses in the pit, six were killed. It appeared the fire passed down the ways, destroying all that encountered its fury, until it was impeded and broken, as it is termed, by a large waggon, which it dashed to pieces, and mangled the driver and horse in a most shocking manner. After the torrent had passed by them, the men left the workings in hopes of effecting their escape; but few, alas! were able to reach the shaft, and even some of those, overpowered by after-damp, at the very moment they hoped to have escaped, fell to rise no more! The first person that reached the surface was a little boy, six years of age. By this accident fifty-seven valuable lives were lost.—*Ibid*.

June 9.—A meeting was held in the town-hall, in Alnwick, (William Burrell, esq., of Broom-park, in the chair,) for the purpose of taking into consideration the expediency of establishing a dispensary in that town, for the benefit of the poor in Coquetdale, Bamboorough, and Glendale wards, which was immediately carried into execution by a very liberal subscription.—*Ibid*.

June 11.—As some children were playing in a brick-yard near Shield-field, Newcastle, they picked up several guineas from some rubbish that had been led from the cellar of the Grey horse public-house, on the Quay. The circumstance having become known people flocked to the place that evening and during the next day, many of whom were well rewarded for their trouble. The cartman who had led the rubbish, hearing of the good fortune of so many, and recollecting that he had taken some of it to a brick-yard near New-Bridge-street, went thither and found several guineas. This place, too, became a scene of industry. One man went at night with a lantern, and, it is said, lined his pockets with gold. One girl got twenty-two guineas; some of them were dated 1759, but most of them were of

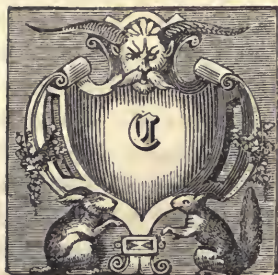
the coinage of 1777. Various were the conjectures employed to account for this treasure being in so extraordinary a situation. Some people related, that, about forty years before, a traveller was robbed in the Grey horse, and that a servant, who was suspected and turned away, had concealed the plunder in the cellar, and had not afterwards an opportunity of carrying it off. Others reported, that a landlord of the above house had said upon his death-bed, that he was worth a considerable sum of money, which could not afterwards be found, and it was imagined that this must have been the wealth to which he alluded.—*Local Papers.*

1815 (June 14.)—As some workmen were employed at the north-shore, near Newcastle, they discovered two human skeletons, the bones of which were in a perfect state. They were both lying together, and one diagonally over the other.—*Ibid.*



GREY HORSE, QUAYSIDE, NEWCASTLE (1828).

CHAPTER VII.



COUNT Lynch, mayor of Bourdeaux, arrived in Newcastle, on the 27th of June, 1815, on his way to visit his relation, John Clavering, esq., of Callaly. On the following morning the populace assembled before the Queen's Head inn, and congratulated the count with repeated huzzas on the defeat of Bonaparte at Waterloo. Count Lynch was the first to hoist the white flag in

France, and surrendered Bourdeaux to the British arms. The count was similarly greeted on his arrival in Morpeth.—*Local Papers.*

June 27.—On the morning of this day, Sheriff-hill colliery, near Gateshead, fired, during the time that Mr. William Fogget, the viewer, and his two brothers were down, all of whom were killed by the blast, and eight of the workmen were also suffocated by what is termed the after-damp.—*Ibid.*

July 1.—Died, at Broom-ridge, in Northumberland, Bridget Mahon, aged 103 years.—*Ibid.*

July.—This month a man employed in cutting a drain behind a house on the south side of the Main-street, Monkwearmouth, discovered the remains of two human skeletons, about three feet beneath the surface, in a bed of dark brown sand, covered with a large stone, but without the slightest appearance of a coffin; one of the skeletons appeared to be that of a female.—*Surtees.*

August 7.—A melancholy accident happened at Messrs. Nesham and Co's. colliery, at Newbottle, in the county of Durham. The proprietors had provided a powerful steam-engine, called the *iron-horse*, for the purpose of drawing ten or twelve coal-waggons to the staith at one time; and this being the day on which it was to be put in motion, a great number of persons belonging to the colliery had col-

lected to see it; but unfortunately, just as it was going off, the boiler of the machine burst. The engineman was dashed in pieces, and his mangled remains blown 114 yards; the top of the boiler (nine feet square, weight 10 cwt.) was blown 100 yards; and the two cylinders 90 yards. A little boy was also thrown to a great distance. By this accident fifty-seven persons were killed and wounded, of whom eleven were dead on the following Sunday night.—*Gent's. Mag.*

1815 (Aug. 28).—In the night the house of Miss Smith, (afterwards lady Peat), at Herrington in the county of Durham, was set fire to, after being robbed. Miss Smith was from home at the time, but a servant girl, named Isabella Young, was found in a passage leading to the kitchen, nearly naked, with two wounds on the back part of the head, and a large fracture on the fore part of it, which had occasioned her death. The fire, when discovered about two o'clock on the morning of the 29th, had not reached the body of the girl, but it appeared evident such had been the intention of the perpetrators. At the assizes held in the city of Durham, on the 13th of August 1819, John Eden, James Wolfe, and George Wolfe, his son, were put upon their trial for burglary, murder and arson, at Herrington; and after the attention of the court had been occupied upwards of nine hours, a verdict of guilty was given against John Eden and James Wolfe, who were sentenced to be hanged on the 16th. After their conviction, some circumstances appeared in favour of Wolfe, some members of the society of Friends instituted an enquiry into the particulars of the case, when an *alibi* was established, proving by numerous affidavits, that James Wolfe was one hundred miles!!! from Herrington when the murder, &c. had been committed. September 26th, he received a free pardon from the king, and was released from prison. The success attending their endeavours for Wolfe, induced the same benevolent individuals to look into the case of Eden (who still persisted in his innocence), and they found, to their great joy, that this man likewise had been falsely sworn to, by James Lincoln, a seaman of Sunderland, no doubt for the reward offered. Eden was also liberated, having obtained his majesty's pardon. At the summer assizes, held in the city of Durham, August 4th, 1820, James Lincoln was tried, and, upon the clearest evidence, was found guilty of wilful and corrupt perjury.—*Local Papers.*

September 1.—Mr. Sadler, in his balloon and car, ascended from the Bowling-green (afterwards Bond-street, now Prudhoe-street), Newcastle. The day was uncommonly fine, and at an early hour the town was thronged with people to witness this unusual exhibition. The process of inflation was commenced at half-past ten, and before twelve, considerable numbers had assembled in the green, where two

bands of music were stationed for the recreation of the company. At length the discharge of a cannon announced that the inflation was completed; but some further time elapsed before all the subsequent preparations were completed, and before the balloon could be brought to the platform. At a quarter after three, the balloon was brought forward with some difficulty, on account of the high state of the wind, when the attention of every one was fixed with anxious expectation on this strange vehicle, and the daring aéronaut who was preparing to commit himself to the bosom of the wind. At length, after receiving his flag from the hands of Mrs. Ellison, of Hebburn, the order to play "God save the King" was given; soon after which, the car was disengaged, when the balloon rose with a tremendous bound from the platform, and dashed with amazing velocity over Northumberland-street, in a direction nearly E. N. E. Soon after its ascent, the flag of the young aéronaut was observed waving in the air, but the balloon was carried forward with such rapidity, that its motions soon became indistinct, and the balloon diminished to little more than a speck. It continued in sight about fifteen minutes, when it appeared rapidly to approach the earth; on throwing out the anchor one of the flukes broke, which caused it to be dragged some distance. At length the balloon and car were secured near to the seat of T. Wright, esq., at Whitley park, and within two hundred yards of the sea, being twenty one minutes from leaving the Bowling-green. September 29th, 1824, Mr. Sadler was killed by a fall from his balloon, after having ascended majestically from the yard of the gas-works at Bolton, in Lancashire.

—*Local Papers.*

1815 (Sept. 16).—In consequence of the sudden reduction of the navy, happening at the time of the arrival of the ships from the Greenland and other trades, an immense body of seamen was at once thrown unprovided for, upon the country, and in much greater numbers than could possibly, in so short a space of time, find employment in the merchant service. Great numbers of unemployed seaman consequently accumulated at the out ports, and particularly at Shields and Sunderland, where they ill-advisedly endeavoured to obtain employment from the ship-owners, by insisting that every ship should have a complement of five men and a boy for every hundred tons register admeasurement. In order to obtain this demand, they for several weeks assembled in large bodies, and forcibly prevented the sailing of all ships, by taking out the seamen, whom they compelled to join their body, under pain of having their faces blacked and their jackets turned, and being thus exhibited through the public streets, with other contemptuous treatment. They observed the strictest discipline among themselves, and severely punished those who were guilty of

any disturbance, calling the roll every morning, and fining those who were absent without leave, and a watch was set every night to patrol the streets, and clear them of those who were guilty of any disorder, so that the greatest order prevailed in Shields streets. On the above day, (Saturday) a general meeting was held upon Cullercoats sands, when about three-thousand were present, and on Wednesday the 20th, another meeting was held at the same place of the seamen from Shields, Sunderland and Blyth, consisting of about seven-thousand. These meetings had a very alarming appearance, being composed principally of men just relieved from his majesty's service; and in consequence, HMS. *Tartarus*, of 20 guns arrived at Shields, on Sunday the 24th of September. On coming into the harbour the *Tartarus* was unfortunately driven by the strength of the tide upon the in-sand. It wanted then upwards of an hour of high water, the sailors who were keeping watch upon the sand end were of opinion that by prompt exertion, the ship might be got off at the height of the tide, without much damage, and being well aware that a number of men could save her, sent the bellman through the town to warn the sailors to assemble at the spot, who soon arrived in vast numbers, and had the happiness to see their exertions crowned with success, as the ship was got out of danger in less than an hour. On the 19th of October, the following men of war had arrived in Shield's harbour, viz:—*Tartarus* 20 guns, *Snake* 18, *Redwing* 18, *Hearty* 18, *Clinker* 14, *Cadmus* 14, and *Griper* 12, all full of marines. There was also at North and South Shields, a great number of troops, both infantry and cavalry. Early on the morning of this day, the ship *Renown*, of South Shields, Mr. Cleugh, owner, having only two boys on board, was discovered on fire, near Mr. Laing's dock. The alarm bell was rung, the several troops of horse scoured the streets, and every class assisted in quelling the flames. As the two boys were in the half-deck asleep when the alarm was given, and the fire was in the fore-part of the ship, it was believed to be the act of incendiaries. The cables, sails, &c., on board, were entirely destroyed, and the hull of the vessel much injured. His majesty's pardon and a reward of 600 guineas were offered for the apprehension of the offenders. This day, also, one of the sailors, (a mate of a ship) having broke from the mob, was sworn in a special constable; in an hour after, his house was broke into, door-frames and all destroyed, himself taken violently; after knocking down three or four of the ringleaders. He was made fast by the middle and hung on a gallows, at the Low lights, near the men of war; after hanging some time, he was cut down (not much injured except in the struggle), ~~possessed~~ in a tub of water, and then compelled to walk amongst the

breakers of the king's peace. On the morning of Saturday the 21st of October, the magistrates proceeded to North Shields with all the military force. This was the day that the courage of these misguided men were to put to the test in a *bad cause*; in a good one it was unnecessary. All the military and naval forces stationed at North and South Shields having been assembled under the command of



AT SOUTH SHIELDS.

major gen. Riall and capt. Toker, and the military, both infantry and cavalry, being posted on the North side, a disposition was made to send to sea as many vessels with coals as could be manned; and on the part of the refractory seamen there also appeared an intention to resist the proceedings of the king's forces. The seamen collected to the number of several thousands; but none appeared in arms. The mayor of Newcastle and the magistrates on the spot as well as those from the neighbouring sea-ports, had consultations with the military and naval commanders, with a view, that if force should prove necessary it might be used with as little bloodshed as possible. A body of marines first took possession of the bridge of boats, which formed the passage for the sailors between the north and south side of the river, and the latter being thus deprived of the means of escape, the cavalry on the north side made more of a

demonstration, than of a real charge against them. This was sufficient, however, to drive them to the river side and place them entirely at the mercy of the soldiers, and accordingly they sought their safety in dispersion and flight. The commander of the forces anticipating such an event had ordered a particular look out to be kept for the committee who were known by their dress. The greatest part of them seized a boat and attempted their escape by water but were made prisoners in their flight. The king's ships now afforded a rallying point for those sailors who had been detained by the committee against their will, several availed themselves of their protection, and offered to proceed instantly to sea with any vessel that might be ready. With these men and the apprentices in the harbour, capt. Toker was enabled to send to sea from twenty to twenty-five colliers; and on Wednesday October 25th, the disputes between the shipowners and the seamen, were happily so far adjusted, that one hundred and fifty sail, many of which had been nine weeks in Shields harbour, proceeded to sea.—*Lon. Gen. Evening Post*.

1815 (Nov. 8).—Died, at the Riding mills, in the county of Durham, aged 102, Margaret Brown. She was mother of eight children, grandmother of thirty-five, and great-grandmother of seventy-two.—*Gen's. Mag.*

November 22.—Died, in the High-bridge, Newcastle, Mr. James Sands, aged 40 years. He had been confined to his room above 30 years, in consequence of a paralytic affection. Through the strength of his genius, he surmounted every difficulty his peculiar situation opposed to the acquisition of knowledge, having, without instruction, made an extraordinary proficiency in the ancient and modern languages, and acquired considerable skill in various branches of the sciences. He was the author of the following novels, which were very favourably received by the public, viz: "Monckton, or the Fate of Eleanor," 3 vols.; "Count de Novini, or the Confederate Carthusians," 3 vols.; "The Eventful Marriage," 4 vols.; and "Dangerous Secrets," 2 vols. He was also the author of "The Oath," a play which was performed in the Newcastle theatre. He likewise contributed a great number of ingenious poetical pieces, essays, letters, &c., to different periodical publications.—*Local Rec.*

December 8.—As four of the workmen were employed on a stage seventy fathoms down the shaft of Nesham's main colliery, repairing the masonry, one of them came to the bank to get something he wanted; while talking to the banksman, and incautiously passing along a plank, he fell down upon the stage he had a few minutes before left, and so great was the force acquired in his fall, that three beams six inches by four, which supported the stage, were broken by

the shock, and the poor fellow with his three companions were precipitated to the bottom (55 fathoms further) and all dashed to pieces.—*Local Papers.*

1815 (Dec. 9).—This day (Saturday) their imperial highnesses the archdukes, John and Lewis of Austria, with their suite arrived in Newcastle; soon after which, they were waited upon by the right worshipful the mayor and several of the aldermen, when the mayor requested the honour of entertaining them at the mansion-house, which their imperial highnesses declined, observed that they were sensible of the honour intended them, but, that they wished to be considered as travelling privately. On the same day they visited Shields, and Wallsend, and Percy main collieries, where they were attended by John Buddle, esq., who described to them the nature of the subterraneous workings, &c. On Sunday forenoon they attended at the Roman Catholic chapel in Newcastle; and in the afternoon paid a visit to Sunderland to see the cast-iron bridge of that town. Their imperial highnesses and suite expressed great astonishment and pleasure at the structure and ingenuity in the erection of the same, and its wonderful span. On Monday they proceeded, attended by T. H. Bigge and Joseph Lamb, esq., to Lemington, to see the iron and glass works established there. Their attention was forcibly arrested by the locomotive engine at work upon Wylam waggon-way. After partaking refreshment at Mr. Lamb's they returned, and afterwards visited the shot and white-lead works at Low Elswick, and Messrs. Hawks' iron foundry at New Greenwich. On the Tuesday morning, their imperial highnesses set off on their way to the south.—*Ibid.*

December 11.—A fire unfortunately took place in Sheriff-hill colliery, owing to the wooden partition which separated the upcast from the downcast shaft, taking fire from the coal lamp, which is used to cause the updraught of air necessary for the ventilation of the pit. Every exertion was used to get both men and horses out of the pit, as the destruction of the partition necessarily destroyed the circulation of air within the workings. They succeeded in getting out all but five wastemen, who unhappily perished.—*Ibid.*

December 20.—A most dreadful fire broke out in the extensive granaries of Messrs. Johnson, Carr, and Co., John Dewar, John Waugh, John Forster, and George Sligh, in Berwick. The fire originated from the kiln used for drying grain being overheated, and was discovered about six o'clock in the evening, but did not burst into a flame till near seven, when it raged with such fury, that in a short time, the granaries (about two-hundred feet in length) were reduced to ashes. The damage was estimated at £5,000. At twelve

o'clock the fire-bell was rung a second time, the flames having broke out in a hay loft belonging to William Bell, of the Old Hen and Chickens inn. Had the wind blown as strong from the west as it did from the north-east, no exertion could have saved the whole of Bridge-street from being burnt down. No lives were lost. Few of the sufferers were insured.—*Local Papers.*

1815 (Dec. 29).—On repairing the north aisle of Alnwick church, Mr. Thomas Patterson discovered two stone statues about two feet below the surface. They are of exquisite workmanship and great antiquity. The largest is supposed to represent a king, and is painted as having a scarlet gown and crimson robe lined with ermine, an ermine tippet over the shoulders, and bound about the middle with a gilt strap. On the left side is a purse, and on the right a string of beads; in the left hand is a globe, in the right a sceptre, and at the feet are the royal arms. The other statue is supposed to represent a martyr; it is carved as being naked, except a piece of drapery about its middle. The legs, thighs, and body, are transfixd with nine arrows, and the hands and feet, are bound in fetters. These statues were found without their heads. They are now placed below the belfry at the west end of the church.—*Ibid.*

In the night of this day, the paper mill belonging to Mr. Lumley, at Butterby, near Durham, was blown down. The building extended across a valley, and was about one hundred feet long, the upper part being constructed of wood and brick pillars, the lower floor of stone. The wind sweeping across the vale, and taking the building at its broadside, tore away the roof and the whole of the upper story, or drying rooms; nothing remained standing but the two gable ends and the walls of the lower rooms. The fall of the roof forced in the pillars of the drying rooms, breaking some massy beams, and involving in the general ruin a quantity of paper in an unfinished state, all the vats, and the various utensils used in the mill.—*Ibid.*

December 30.—In consequence of a rapid thaw, accompanied by wind and rain, there was a great flood in the river Tyne, which was supposed by many persons to have done nearly as much injury, though it did not rise to so great a height, as the flood in 1771. The water was at its greatest height about five o'clock on the morning of the above day (Saturday), when its appearance was particularly awful. Some idea of the force of the current may be formed from the circumstance of the Carlisle, London trader, which was lying alongside the quay at Newcastle, having torn up the cannon to which she was moored, and broken adrift. Another vessel also broke adrift from the Carlisle running foul of her, but both vessels were soon after brought up and secured. Most of the other vessels at the

Quay were obliged, for security, to bring their anchors ashore, and fasten them up to the stems in the pavement. The Quay and lower part of the Close were overflowed, and almost every cellar filled with water, by which great loss was sustained; many of the cellars being full of sugars and other dry goods. A man named James Craig, and a youth named John Hoggins, both belonging to Newcastle, were unfortunately drowned, while humanely endeavouring to rescue Robert Lindsay and his two sons, the crew of a keel, which, about eleven o'clock on the Friday night, had got fixed lengthways across the second arch from the north end of the bridge. The piteous cries of the keelmen induced the man and boy to put off in a small boat to their assistance; they succeeded in rescuing the men from the keel, but, on their return the boat was swamped in a strong eddy, and the man and boy were drowned. Great apprehensions were at one time entertained for the safety of the bridge, some of the arches being choaked up with keels, ice, and pieces of timber. Happily, however, the bridge stood firm. The two southern arches of Haydon-bridge, were carried away at nine o'clock on the Friday night. In Shields harbour, some lives were lost by the upsetting of a boat, and upwards of thirty vessels drifted from their moorings, and were driven upon the Herd sand. Several keels were also blown out to sea, with their crews, some of which were seen off Flamborough Head. The effects of the flood was severely felt by the farmers and others on both sides of the river, in the loss of horses, cows, sheep, pigs, &c. All the low grounds in the neighbourhood of Ponteland were overflowed, and many of the inhabitants were roused from their sleep by the water entering their beds. Considerable damage was done at Durham, Darlington, Sunderland, Hexham, &c. The wind corn-mill of Mr. Heron, about half-a-mile to the westward of Sunderland, ran amain, and taking fire from the friction, was burnt to the ground. On the river Wear, the ships and keels were nearly all adrift, but were secured before they got to sea. Great damage was done by this storm on the banks of the rivers Tees and Wear.—*Local Papers.*

1815.—Stockton was made a bonding port for goods enumerated in Table C. of the Warehousing Act; and in 1818 the indulgence was extended to timber.—*Surtees.*

This year, died, at Sunderland, Ann Appleby, aged 103 years.—*Local Papers.*

1816 (Jan. 3).—Died, at the Low Felling, near Gateshead, Alice Blackett, aged 101 years.—*Ibid.*

January 4.—Died, in Gateshead poor-house, where she had resided 50 years, Ann Carpenter, aged 110 years.—*Ibid.*

January 9.—Died, at his house, near the Wind-mill hills, Gates-

head, Thomas Thompson, merchant, in the 43rd year of his age. His death was caused by cold and fatigue, in his exertions to save his property (timber), from the ravages of the destructive flood in the preceding month. From an humble origin, he raised himself by his talents and merits to a respectable rank in society; his loss was severely felt in the extensive circle of his friends, as well as in the public festivals of the town, to the mirth of which his exquisitely humorous songs in the pure Newcastle dialect, contributed a large portion. Besides being the author of "Canny Newcastle," "Jemmy Johnson's Whurry," "New Keel Row," and other descriptive local songs, Mr. Thompson wrote several graver pieces, of considerable merit.—*Gent's Mag.*

1816 (Jan. 12).—Died, at the Windy-nook, Gateshead Fell, Mary Henderson, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers.*

January 29.—Died, at Bishopwearmouth, Thomas Coulson, glass-maker, aged 105 years.—*Ibid.*

This month, a stone coffin of the usual form was discovered about a foot below the surface, immediately without the east chancel walls of Boldon church, Durham. It had no lid or inscription.—*Surtees.*

A temporary bridge was this month finished across the river Tyne, at Haydon-bridge, for the convenience of travellers.—*Local Papers.*

January.—Died, at the North-shore, Newcastle, William Forster, aged 60 years. In the early part of the revolutionary war with France, a ship, in which he was mate, was taken by a privateer; and he only of the crew being left on board with six Frenchmen, contrived to retake her with that number, and brought her into port.—*Gent's Mag.*

February 3.—Died, in Milburn-gate, Durham, Mrs. Ann Smith, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers.*

February 5.—Died, at East Brunton, in Northumberland, Mr. John Wallace, aged 103 years.—*Ibid.*

The beginning of this year, vigorous efforts were made to establish a branch custom-house at North Shields. This excited considerable interest both at that place and Newcastle, and deputations from these places, composed of respectable merchants and shipowners, were sent to London for the purpose of conferring with his majesty's ministers on the expediency of the measure. The lord chancellor and sir William Scott, natives of Newcastle, were decidedly against it. The lords of the treasury at length finally determined that no branch of the custom-house at Newcastle should be established at Shields; but such masters of colliers, as might wish it, would in future be permitted to sign the coast bond at Shields. Newcastle was also highly indebted to sir M. W. Ridley, bart., and Cuthbert Ellison,

esq., members of parliament for that town, for their unremitted exertions on this occasion.—*Local Papers*.

Another attempt was afterwards made by the shipowners of Shields to obtain the privilege of a distinct custom-house, but the lords of the treasury again decided against making any alteration in the mode of conducting the customary business of the port.—*Ibid*.

1816 (March 13.)—Died, at Stockton-upon-Tees, aged 70, Mr. John Chipchase, one of the people called quakers; a respectable man, and a distinguished teacher of mathematics. Born to no rank but that which is our natural heritage, he depended upon the assistance of kind friends, and his own industrious application, for that which he acquired. In early life he received the instruction of Mr. Claxton, an ingenious schoolmaster in Stockton, and the gratuitous information of Mr. Wright, a merchant of that place. But that which probably superseded, or rather completed, what these good friends had begun, was the circumstance of his being afterwards a pupil of W. Emerson of Hurworth, a name of the highest mathematical celebrity. John Chipchase was a successful teacher for half a century. Residing in a sea-port town, his instruction was invaluable for young men studying navigation. He attended the boarding schools for young ladies; and young persons of all descriptions, under a course either of public or private education, for two, and in some instances, for three generations, have been placed under his care, and acknowledge their obligations to him; particularly for their instruction in geography and astronomy. Before the last long and dreadful war had shut up our communication with the Continent, several young Danes and Norwegians, connected with the merchants in Stockton, were placed under his tuition.—He had an ever-searching mind, and recorded what the unthinking would call trifles, but which are often very useful hand-maids of philosophy. He was strongly attached to his native town, and particularly to its local history. He was an active member of the religious society with which he associated; and in controversial politics (in which he never violently engaged) his sentiments were on, what is sometimes called, the liberal side of the question. With much study, and attention to his numerous pupils, he appears to have injured his constitution, which had never been strong; and after a short, but violent attack of illness, he expired, much lamented by his scholars, who held his memory in respect, and by his acquaintance, who, in him, always acknowledged a friend.—*Gent's Mag*.

About this period an explosion occurred in Walbottle colliery, near Newcastle, by which three men and eleven boys were dreadfully scorched. One hundred and twenty men and boys were at work in the mine at the time of the accident.—*Mon. Mag*.

1816 (April 12).—Died, at North Shields, Mrs. Mary Richardson, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers*.



IN THE LOW-STREET, NORTH SHIELDS (1843).

April 20.—Whole length portraits of the lord chancellor (Eldon), and sir William Scott, judge of the admiralty court, were placed in the Guildhall, Newcastle, one on each side of the portrait of lord Collingwood, forming an illustrious trio, all natives of that town. The portraits are by Owen.—*Ibid*.

April 23.—The second centenary of the immortal bard, Shakespere, was celebrated in Newcastle, by a grand dinner at the Queen's head inn, which was attended by about sixty of the admirers of the poet of nature. William Loraine, esq., in the chair. Songs and glees were sung by the professional gentleman present, and Mr. Stephen Kemble gave a long and able dissertation on the comparative merits of different poets. At the theatre, in the evening, the performances closed with a representation of Garrick's celebrated jubilee at Stratford.—*Ibid*.

This month, an excellent portrait of the duke of Northumberland, painted by Philips, and elegantly framed, was placed in the grand jury room of the new courts of justice for the county of Northumberland, in Newcastle. The portrait was a present from his grace to

the magistrates of the county, who had requested "that a picture (to be painted at their expence) of the munificent donor of £3,000. towards the building of the courts, might adorn their walls." His grace very obligingly complied in sitting to the artist, but converted the finished production into an additional present to the county. This portrait was most exquisitely engraved by Thomas Fryer Ranson, a native of Newcastle.—*Local Papers*.

1816 (May 10).—Died, at the Low row, near Willington, Northumberland, Dorothy Philips, aged 110 years.—*Ibid*.

May 14.—Died, at Bishop Auckland, Mrs. Jane Webster, aged 104 years.—*Ibid*.

May 31.—The society of Arts presented a silver medal to William Reid Clanny, esq., M.D., of Bishopwearmouth, for his safety lamps for coal mines. This society, in the following year, presented the doctor with a gold medal for a steam safety lamp.—*Local Rec*.



This month, died in the County poor-house, in Gallowgate, Newcastle, John Moffatt, better known by the name of *Dummy*, never having had the faculty of speech. This eccentric character had been in the poor-house about thirty-six years, and was supposed, at the time of his death, to be near 80 years of age. He had two large excrescences under his chin, very much resembling the *goitres* of Switzerland. He

was particularly fond of military costume, in which habiliments he was generally dressed, and his partiality for fiddling was indicated by imitating that performance with a stick across his arm.—*Ibid*.

June 3.—In the evening, signor de Montfort, had an exhibition of fire-works in the Spital-field, Newcastle, when the following melancholy occurrence took place:—Owing to the great strength of the wind at the time, the sparks from one of the large wheels fell on the stage, on which four rockets were lying; these were ignited by the sparks, and flying off in different directions, one of them unfortunately struck a youth of the name of John Price on the breast, when he almost immediately expired. The deceased was fifteen years of age. Some other persons were also hurt.—*Local Papers*.

June 15.—A fire broke out in the dwelling-house of Mr. J. Miller, at Brinkburn colliery, near Morpeth, which, in a short time, destroyed the house, with a joiner's shop and stable, and a large quantity of wood. Miller's wife, with an infant only three days old in her arms, had to make her escape by the window, with other five children, all

without clothing; two lodgers also lost every thing except what they had on their persons.—*Local Papers.*

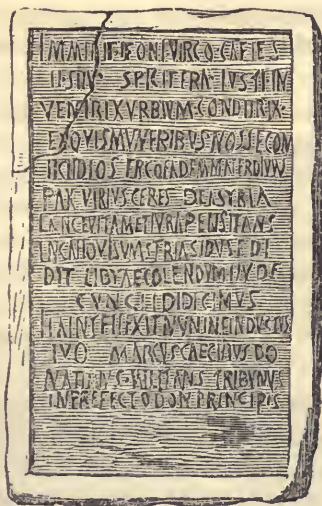
1816 (June 18).—The first anniversary of the memorable victory of Waterloo, was observed in Newcastle, with every mark of public rejoicing. A royal salute was fired at noon and at sunset from the guns on the castle, and many a merry peal was rung by the bells of the different churches during the day.—*Ibid.*

This day was observed by the gallant 33rd regiment of foot, quartered in Sunderland barracks, as a high festival. On the morning, the regiment had a grand field day, when the men all wore a sprig of laurel in their caps, and fired several rounds in honour of the occasion. The officers in the latter part of the day gave an elegant dinner to many gentry in the town and neighbourhood. At night the garrison was illuminated, when various transparencies were displayed. The non-commissioned officers had a ball and refreshments in one of the barracks; and the men were also permitted to regale and enjoy themselves in commemoration of a day, when their sufferings were so great, and when they contributed so much by their valour to the attainment of the glorious result.—*Ibid.*

June 30.—Died, at Darlington, aged 53, Adam Yarker, better known by the name of *Blind Adam*, having been blind from his birth. He possessed a strong memory, which he particularly applied to the registering the number of deaths, &c., which occurred for upwards of forty years in Darlington. Without hesitating a moment, he could tell how many deaths had been in any given year or month, the exact day when the individual died, to whom they were related, &c. He was noted for the keeping of poultry, in which he greatly excelled; his hens, owing to his superior management, laid their eggs in the winter season; he knew them from each other, and could tell their name, colour, &c., as soon as he got them in his hand. Although he was descended from poor parents, and had but a small pittance, called the blind's bounty, with the benevolence of a few charitable individuals, the profits arising from his poultry, &c., enabled him to realise £200.—*Local Rec.*

July 1.—The foundation stone of a column erected by the tenantry of the duke of Northumberland, to perpetuate his grace's munificence and numerous acts of kindness, was laid with great rejoicings. The procession moved from the White Swan inn, Alnwick, to the site of the column, adjoining the road on the south entrance into that town. In a cavity were deposited the regimental roll, written on vellum, of the late Percy tenantry volunteers, hermetically closed in a glass tube, together with several medals. When the clergyman had concluded a prayer, corn, wine, and oil, were poured upon the stone, and the

company united in shouts of applause; after which the procession returned. The column was built on the plan of his grace's architect, the late David Stephenson, esq., of Newcastle.—*Local Papers.*



1816 (July 3).—A tablet of freestone, in fine preservation, bearing an inscription to Ceres, in irregular Iambic verses, was presented to the Antiquarian Society of Newcastle, by colonel Coulson, of Blenkinsopp castle. The tablet was found in Caervoran, one of the stations on the Roman wall, in Northumberland. The inscription is an accurate but mystical exposition of the creed of a Roman soldier, respecting the mother of the gods, it is thus translated by the rev. John Hodgson :—

The virgin that in her celestial seat impends over the lion,
Is the corn-bearer, the inventor of right, the builder of cities,
By whose blessings we are permitted to know the gods ;
The same is, therefore, the mother of the gods, peace, virtue, Ceres,
The Syrian Goddess, poising in a balance life and laws.
Syria has sent forth a star, seen in heaven,
To be worshipped by Lybia, from thence we all proceed ;
Thus, under the guidance of thy grace, hath understood ;
Marcus Cæcilius Donatinus, a warfaring
Tribune in the office of prefect by the bounty of the emperor.

History of Northd. &c.

July 6.—Some workmen employed at the quarry at Hetton, Northumberland, on removing the earth, near the old Roman road, discovered about four feet below the surface, an urn rudely carved and

filled with black ashes, near it was a stone coffin about three feet four inches long, and two feet two inches in width, containing the remains of a body lying on the left side; the legs folded up behind the thighs. From the rough state of the coffin, no inscription could be traced.—*Hist. of Northd.*

1816 (July 10).—About twelve o'clock at night, an alarming fire broke out in the upper part of a building in the Pudding-chare, Newcastle, occupied by Mr. Beeney, painter and glazier, as a varnishing room, and by Mr. Lawson as a currier's work shop. The fire had arrived at a considerable height before it was discovered, but the firemen succeeded in getting it under by about two o'clock, without doing much further damage than destroying the upper stories of the building in which it originated, together with the property contained therein. Mr. Beeney's loss was considerable, not being insured. Mr. Richardson, the owner of the premises, and Mr. Lawson, were both insured.—*Local Papers.*

August 5.—The ship *Flora*, of London, having just taken in a cargo of coals from Messrs. Nesham and Co's. staith at Sunderland, blew up with a terrible explosion, the deck beams being broken, and the decks completely torn up, with considerable other damage. This was occasioned by the inflammable state of the coal, and the air being entirely excluded from the hold.—*Ibid.*

August 17.—John Greig, for the murder of Elizabeth Stonehouse, of Monkwearmouth, was executed pursuant to his sentence, on a drop erected in front of the new county court house at Durham. He was a stout good-looking man, thirty-seven years of age.—*Ibid.*

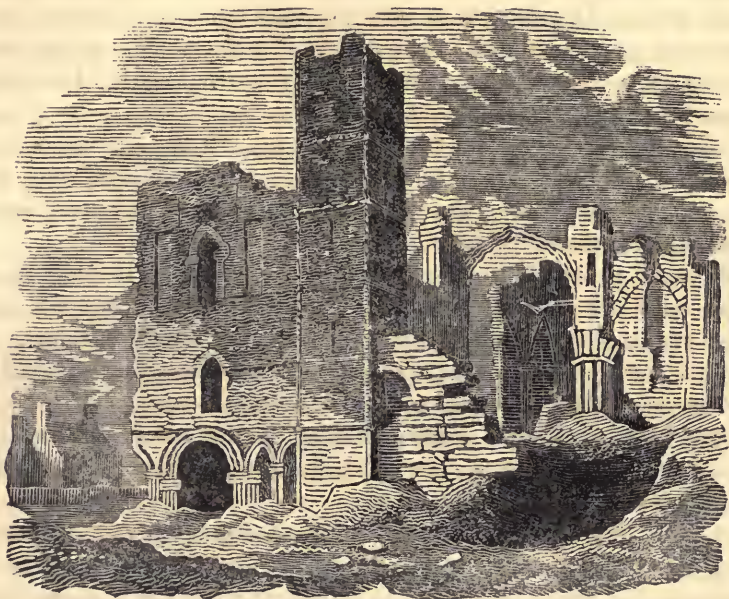
August 22.—About four o'clock on the morning, an alarming fire broke out in the premises of Mr. Coxon, of Milburn-place, North Shields, pawnbroker, by which the whole of the internal part of the building, furniture, and pledged goods were consumed.—*Ibid.*

Same day, died at Sunderland, Margaret Archer, aged 110 years.—*Ibid.*

September 7.—James O'Neil for robbing Mr. George Angus, carrier of Mickley, on the highway, on his return from the preceding October Cow-hill fair, was executed pursuant to his sentence, on the Town-moor, Newcastle. The body, after hanging the usual time, was cut down, and conveyed by the friends of the deceased to a public-house near the gaol, where it was *waked*, and on the following day (Sunday) it was interred at St. Andrew's church; about thirty Irish people following it to the grave.—*Ibid.*

September 10.—During a tremendous hurricane, the patent iron wands of the corn-mill at Byker-hill, near Newcastle, were carried away for the third time in two years, and fell with a dreadful crash.

In Newcastle many buildings were injured, and a large ash tree, which had for many generations stood in the west corner of the vicarage garden, in Westgate-street, was blown down, to the great regret of the inhabitants. It was somewhat remarkable that this tree, which, for many years, had been frequented by rooks, was this year deserted by them, a solitary pair only making their nest in it.—*Local Papers*.



RUINS OF ST. CUTHBERT'S CATHEDRAL, HOLY ISLAND (1814).

1816 (Sep.)—The view of that venerable ruin, the cathedral of St. Cuthbert, at Holy Island, was considerably improved by the wreck and rubbish of the fallen parts of the building being removed from the windows, which had for ages been blocked up; but most especially by the great western door of the church being opened out, which the sun had not shone upon for centuries past, the architecture of which is the true Saxon, highly ornamented, with three columns on each side of the door. The amateurs of antiquities are indebted to Mr. Selby, of Swansfield, for this great improvement.—*Local Rec.*

September 18.—Many of the tradesmen in Sunderland, injudiciously refused taking the shillings and sixpences that were plain, and without remains of the impression. In consequence of this, a large concourse of the poor inhabitants met after dark, and commenced an attack upon the shops of Messrs. Caleb Wilson, Natrass, Middlebrook, Walton, Andrews, Hall, &c., all grocers and flour dealers; the

windows of both shops and houses were nearly demolished, and the shop of Middlebrook completely gutted by the mob, who were seen running away with hams, bacon, groceries, &c. After the shop had been forced open, the 33rd regiment was called out, and, on the riot act being read about midnight, they prepared to act hostilely, when the mob in a great degree dispersed, but not before several soldiers received severe bruises from bricks, &c. The house of Mr. Barnes, surgeon, being at this time rebuilding, the mob took thence many hundred bricks for their destructive purposes; the town continued in great alarm and commotion for some time on this event.—*Local Rec.*

1816 (Sep. 21).—Died, at Chirton, near North Shields, Mr. William Elliot, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers.*

September 30.—Died, at Old Walker, near Newcastle, Mrs. Jane Jowsey, aged 104 years. She possessed all her faculties until the time of her dissolution; she could sew, spin, knit, and read small print without the aid of spectacles.—*Ibid.*

October 9.—A Roman gold coin of the emperor Galba, about 1400 years old, with a fine head quite perfect, was found in a field near Chester-le-street, by a young woman gathering potatoes; it weighed about two-thirds of a guinea. It was placed in the valuable collection of Robert Surtees, esq., of Mainsforth.—*Local Rec.*

October 11.—Witton castle and estate in the county of Durham, were sold by auction in the city of Durham, for the sum of £78,000.—*Dur. Adv.*

October 18.—A riot took place at Sunderland this day, (Friday) which is the market-day there. A farmer had been asking 16s. a bushel for his wheat, when a fellow standing by him forcibly seized the sack and ran off with it. This daring outrage was the signal for the whole of the corn being seized by the populace, and instantly the whole market became the scene of the utmost confusion and alarm. The shop-keepers shut in their windows, the magistrates appeared and read the riot act, and the military were ordered to be in readiness, but fortunately their services were not required. By the active exertions of about sixty special constables, the corn was nearly all recovered and tranquility restored.—*Local Papers.*

November 22.—A tremendous fire broke out in the premises occupied by Mr. James Hewet, ship-chandler, in the Low-street of North Shields, which were totally consumed, and the adjoining premises considerably injured.—*Ibid.*

November 29.—Died, at Bishopwearmouth, Mrs. Elizabeth Broderick, aged 104 years.—*Ibid.*

December 13.—The grand duke Nicholas, of Russia, and his suite arrived at Sunderland; and the morning following, attended by the

rev. Dr. Gray, minutely inspected the pier, the iron bridge, the coal staith of Messrs. Nesham and Co., and afterwards took refreshment at Bishopwearmouth rectory house. They then set out for Newcastle, and on their arrival, his imperial highness proceeded to the royal Jubilee School, where he was met by the rev. William Turner, one of the secretaries. Though Saturday is not a regular school day, yet at the request of Dr. Hamel, who had arrived the day before, Mr. Drury, the master of the school, had assembled all the boys, to the number of nearly five hundred. This being the first Lancastrian school which his highness had seen, he appeared to be powerfully interested, and attentively examined all their performances. Before leaving the school, he inscribed with his own hand in the visitors' book, his name in the Russ character, to remain as a testimonial of his visit. From the school the prince proceeded to Wallsend colliery, where Mr. Buddle explained the whole process of ventilating and working the mines and the shipping of coal. Mr. Bewick had afterwards the honour of laying before the grand duke specimens of his skill in the art of engraving upon wood, which were closely examined, and much approved of by his highness. On Sunday morning, the right worshipful the mayor, sir Thomas Burdon, knt., paid his respects to his imperial highness, to tender him the honours and hospitality of Newcastle. His highness regretted that want of time did not allow him to accept the invitation, and indeed he almost immediately set off for Alnwick castle, and thence to Berwick, where he passed the night. His suite consisted of the following persons:—Baron Nicholay, sir William Congreve, Koutousof, Dr. Crichton, General Saurassoff, M. Klinker, M. Marsell, and M. Parosky.—*Local Papers.*

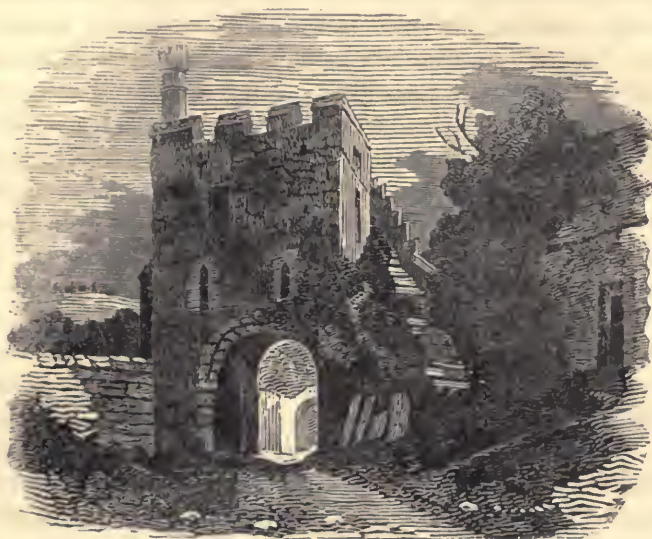
1816.—The alms-houses “for the convenient lodging of poor impotent persons belonging to the township of Stockton” erected about the year 1682, having fallen into decay, were, this year, rebuilt in a handsome style, and occupy a conspicuous situation on the east side of the High-street. This structure derives its origin from the benevolence of George Brown, esq., of Stockton, and of Threadneedle-street, London, who bequeathed three thousand pounds, for this purpose.—*Brewster's Stockton.*

Ebenezer meeting-house (Presbyterian) Alnwick founded. The register of births and baptisms 24 entries, extending from 1817 to 1831.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

This year the freedom of Berwick was voted to admiral lord Exmouth, and to admiral sir David Milne, for highly distinguished and meritorious services at Algiers. His lordship replied by a letter of thanks, stating that this was the first compliment that he had received since his arrival in England from Algiers.—*Local Papers.*

1816.—One of those wise and prudent institutions, a savings' bank, was, this year, established at Morpeth, under the patronage and trust of the duke of Portland, sir C. M. L. M. Monek, bart., and W. Ord, esq. M. P., and in 1829. a neat commodious building was erected, in which the business of the bank is now transacted.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

This year, Algernon Percy, only brother to the duke of Northumberland, was created lord Prudhoe, baron of Prudhoe castle, in Northumberland.—*Local Papers.*



GATEWAY, PRUDHOE CASTLE (1814).

1817 (Jan. 4).—Died, in Newcastle, Mr. Ralph Beilby, a native of Durham, in the 74th year of his age. He was the son of Mr. William Beilby, a respectable jeweller and goldsmith in Durham, but being unsuccessful in business, he removed to Newcastle. Ralph having learnt to be a silversmith, jeweller, and seal engraver, under his father, became the common resource in several useful arts and accomplishments. To the engraving of arms and letters on seals and silver plate, he added engraving on copper, as there were at that time no engravers in the north of England. Mr. Beilby executed heraldic engravings with extraordinary facility, and his plate of "Thornton's Monument," in Brand's History of Newcastle, shows that he also possessed considerable skill in engraving upon copper. But he was most distinguished for his literary and scientific pursuits; he also understood the science of music well, and in his youth played double bass at the rev. Dr. Brown's private concerts. He was one of the

first and warmest promoters of the Literary and Philosophical society of Newcastle, and was highly esteemed.—*Local Rec.*

1817 (Jan. 13).—Died, at Shincliff, near Durham, Mr John Lamb, farmer, aged 100 years. It was the anniversary of his birth day.—*Local Papers.*

January 30.—Eighteen waggons belonging to the artillery arrived in Newcastle on their way to Scotland, under a military escort. They were laden with the new silver coin to the amount, in weight, of twenty-four tons.—*Ibid.*

February 12.—A most destructive fire occurred at Darlington, by which the extensive woollen-manufactory, belonging to Messrs. Edward and Joseph Pease, and other property, valued at thirty thousand pounds, were destroyed, and five hundred people thrown out of employ.—*Gent's Mag.*

February 13.—The new silver coin was delivered from the Mint office, in the Close, to the public in Newcastle, in exchange for the old standard coin of the realm, however defaced or reduced in weight by use.—*Local Papers.*

This month, there were found in the ancient manor of Ulchester, Northumberland, nearly one thousand silver coins, which appeared to be pennies of the reigns of Stephen and Henry II.—*Ibid.*

March.—Died in the poor-house of St. Nicholas', Durham, William Williamson, aged 100 years.—*Ibid.*

April 8.—Died, in Sandgate, Newcastle, Isabella Thompson, widow, aged 100 years.—*Ibid.*

April 14.—Martha Wilson was found suspended from a nail in the wall of her apartment in the Trinity-house, Newcastle. After a careful examination of witnesses before the coroner and jury, a verdict of *felo de se* was found, and in consequence her body was interred in the public highway, a little to the east of the toll-gate, and in front of the buildings which have since been named Ridley Villas.—*Ibid.*

April 20.—Died, in the house of Correction in Durham, where he had been kept nearly forty-six years, a man usually called *Dickey*, a lunatic, whose real name could never be made out, but which was supposed to have been Richard Williamson. This extraordinary man was first discovered in 1771, in a complete state of nudity, in an out-building in the fields near Newton-hall, then the seat of Thomas Liddell, esq., who allowed him 1s. a-week towards his maintenance, and which was continued by his successors, and, with the allowance from the county, and the kind attention of the governors of the house, rendered his life comfortable. It was generally conjectured, that he had been a lunatic confined in some receptacle, whence he had escaped. He was never able either to tell his name or give the

smallest account of himself, nor could any discovery ever be made where he came from, or to whom he belonged, though, from his dialect, he seemed to have come from the south. He was perfectly harmless, and appeared to have had a good education, from his being able to repeat many parts of the service of the church, particularly the morning service, which he frequently did with great propriety. He was supposed, at the time of his death, to be about 80 years of age.—*Local Rec.*

1817 (April 20).—Died, at Plessey, Northumberland, Margaret Stafford, aged 106 years.—*Local Papers.*

April 28.—Died, at the Peace and Unity Hospital, Westgate, Newcastle, aged 101, Mrs. Anne Tindal, who had been a widow 66 years. When 99 she had the misfortune to have her thigh bone broke, of which she was cured in the infirmary; and about six weeks before her death, her shoulder was dislocated, of which she also had recovered.—*Gent's. Mag.*

April 29.—The marriage of earl Percy, at Northumberland-house, Strand, London, to lady Charlotte Florentia Clive, youngest daughter of the earl of Powis, was celebrated at Alnwick, by the ringing of bells, the firing of guns, and an ox roasted in the Market-place; it was cut up by Mr. George Lindsay, butcher, on a scaffold erected for the purpose, and distributed amongst the populace, together with a proportionate quantity of bread and ale. The whole was conducted with the greatest harmony.—*Local Papers.*

April 29.—The foundation stone of a new Independent Meeting-house was laid with much ceremony, in Villiers-street, Sunderland, by the rev. Mr. Parsons, of Leeds.—*Ibid.*

This month, died at Hexham, Mr. John Bewick, aged 101 years.—*Ibid.*

May 18.—Died, at South Shields, Mrs. Margaret Cundell, widow, aged 100 years.—*Ibid.*

This month, died at Rig End, near Falstone, Mrs. Heron, widow, aged 104 years.—*Ibid.*

June 1.—Died, at St. Anthony's, near Newcastle, Sarah Forster, aged 109 years.—*Ibid.*

June 3.—Died, at the High Felling, near Gateshead, John Maclay, aged 101 years.—*Ibid.*

June 8.—Died, at Hexham, Elizabeth Carr, aged 102 years.—*Ibid.*

June 8.—Died, at Brancepath castle, in the county of Durham, in his 83rd year, William Russell, esq., whose mild and amiable qualities had not less endeared him to his family and friends, than his genuine benevolence and public spirit had entitled him to universal respect and esteem. Among many other instances of his well-directed

munificence and patriotism may be mentioned an hospital, which he founded and liberally endowed some years previously in the county of Durham, for a considerable number of aged persons, with a school attached for a large establishment of boys and girls. In 1795, Mr. Russell was prominently instrumental in raising a large body of infantry in the county of Durham, to the expence of which he mainly contributed; and subsequently, at the cost of several thousand pounds, entirely borne by himself, he raised and equipped a numerous corps of sharp-shooters (the Wallsend riflemen, commanded by John Budde, esq;) esteemed one of the most complete in the kingdom. During the period of distress which shortly preceded his disease, and up to the moment of his death, he received and maintained the poor coming from all quarters in barracks constructed for the purpose, where every requisite comfort and accommodation was provided for them, while he kept alive their habits of industry by employing such as were able in various works upon his extensive estates.—*Gent's. Mag.*

1817 (June 12).—Died, in the gaol of Newgate, Newcastle, where he had been confined several years, Mr. William Richardson, formerly an eminent corn-merchant in that town. Mr. R. possessed considerable talents, and various were his satiric effusions, the chief of which is "The Newcastle Attorneys," which was privately circulated, and of course has become extremely scarce. His widow placed a very singular epitaph over his remains, in Heworth chapel-yard, which has since been much mutilated.—*Local Rec.*

June 23.—The corporation of Newcastle commenced building twenty additional rooms to the Peace and Unity hospital, at the Westgate, for aged freemen and their widows.—*Local Papers.*

June 26.—Died, at Birtley, Durham, Ralph Goftan, in the 102nd year of his age.—*Ibid.*

June 30.—About eleven o'clock in the forenoon, the carburetted hydrogen gas in the Row pit, at Harraton colliery, on the river Wear, unfortunately ignited, when thirty-eight men and boys lost their lives. It was one of the most violent explosions which had happened for years; corves, trams, and several utensils used at the bottom of the shaft (82 fathoms in depth) being blown into the air, together with the bodies of two of the unfortunate workmen, one with the head off, and the other cut in two in the middle. All the sufferers, except one from Fatfield, belonged to New Painsher, and were buried there on Wednesday, July 2nd. Amongst them were ten belonging to one family, of the name of Hills, viz. the grandfather, his two sons, and seven grandsons. This dreadful accident was caused entirely by the perverse obstinacy of a young man, named John Moody, one of the hewers, who, in defiance of the orders of the overman, refused to

use sir H. Davy's lamp, and lighted a candle, which was twice put out by the workmen whom he was to relieve, but he re-lighted it by unscrewing the lamp, and thus sacrificed his own life, and the lives of his companions. But the painful narrative does not close here: on Wednesday afternoon, some of the workmen went into the Nova Scotia pit, of the same colliery, to repair some part of the shaft which had been injured by the explosion of the Row pit, and not returning in time, another party of men went down to seek them, but were obliged to return without effecting their object, being unable to proceed on account of the great quantity of choke damp which had entered the workings, supposed from the Row pit subsequent to the explosion. The eight workmen who had first gone down were obliged, therefore, to be left to their fate. Their bodies were got out on the following day, six of whom were quite dead; two were still alive, with little hopes of recovery.—*Local Papers*.

1817 (July 21).—An explosion occurred in Sheriff-hill colliery, by which one life was lost.—*Ibid*.



THE LARGEST GOLD MEDAL OF THE SOCIETY OF ARTS.

See Page 165.

CHAPTER VIII.



IN the month of September, 1817, the foundation stone of a Roman Catholic chapel was laid in Bedford-street, North Shields, adjoining the turnpike road from Tynemouth to Newcastle. June 14th, 1821, this elegant Gothic edifice was opened with great solemnity by the right rev. Thomas Smith, bishop of Bolina, and vicar apostolic of the northern district, assisted by a number of Catholic clergymen. An excellent sermon was preach-

ed by the rev. Thomas Gillow, to a crowded audience, who had been admitted by ticket.—*Local Papers.*

July 4.—A blast took place on board the Fly, Brown, of Ely, which had just been laden with coals at Mr. Brandling's staith, on the river Tyne. The hatches were fastened down about eight o'clock at night, and about half-past eleven, the master having been writing in his cabin, the inflammable gas from the coal having found its way from the hold, ignited at his candle as he was going to bed, and exploded. The master was seriously scorched; his bed curtains were set on fire; the hatches were burst open, and a boat which was upon them thrown off. Two planks on the deck were blown up. The other men on board were in bed and received no hurt, except the mate who was thrown out of bed, and his toes a little burnt, and his whiskers singed off. The cat also lost her whiskers, and was much singed. These accidents are occasioned by immediately fastening down the hatches upon a cargo of fresh coals, which emit the gas for some time after they are raised from the mine.—*Ibid.*

July 10.—Died, at Northumberland-house, London, the most noble Hugh Percy, duke of Northumberland, unrivalled for goodness of heart, friendship, munificence, and princely protection. For 53 years

he adorned the military profession both at home and abroad; and as a statesman, tempered the love of his sovereign with the love of the just rights of the people. He was the father of his tenantry, who gratefully perpetuated his memory by a stately column. During the late war, the Percy tenantry volunteer artillery, cavalry, and riflemen, were clothed, paid, and in every respect maintained in arms, at the sole expense of this patriotic nobleman. His grace's titles and offices were, Hugh Percy, duke of Northumberland, Earl Percy, Baron Warkworth, of Warkworth castle, Baron Percy, Lucy, Poynings, Fitzpayne, Bryan, and Latimer, a baronet, a general in the army, knight of the garter, lord lieutenant and vice-admiral of Northumberland and Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and constable of Launceston castle, F. R. S. and F. S. A. His grace was in the 75th year of his age. The following month, on account of his grace's death, eleven elegant banners, coat of mail, sword and shield, &c., were placed in Alnwick church.—*Local Papers*.

1817(July 14.)—Died, near Wolviston, Durham, Mrs. Mary Stephenson, widow, aged 104 years. Her mother died at the age of 108; a sister at 107, another sister at 105, and a brother at the age of 97 years. No other family, perhaps, ever produced so many remarkable instances of longevity.—*Gent's. Mag.*

July 18.—Died, in St. Andrew's poor-house, Newcastle, Anne Moulter, aged 102 years.—*Local Papers*.

July 19.—Died, at Bishopwearmouth, Thomas Morrison, aged 102 years.—*Ibid.*

July 21.—At night, a partial explosion took place in Sheriff-hill colliery, by which John Tempest one of the hewers was so dreadfully burnt that he died the following day.—*Blyth Monthly Gleaner*.

July 25.—Died, at Hartley, in her 106th year, Mrs Margaret Lowery, who enjoyed excellent health till within a few hours of her death, with faculties unimpaired. About twenty years before, she was nearly blind, but she recovered her eye-sight, which remained strong and clear to the last.—*Ibid.*

August 14.—Died, at Darlington, Isabella Burnsidcs, aged 104 years.—*Local Papers*.

September 25.—An explosion took place in Jarrow colliery, by which unfortunate event six men lost their lives.—*Ibid.*

September 28.—Died, at the house of his nephew, captain Cumby, of Heighington, the rev. William Haswell, forty years lecturer of Tynemouth parish, in the 65th year of his age. He was endeared to the inhabitants of North Shields, and its neighbourhood, as a true evangelical preacher; a man of very superior endowments in the higher species of composition, yet were his discussions suited to the

capacity of every hearer. There was a charm in his eloquence, an earnest forcefulness in his delivery, a distinctness in his enunciation, an awe, commanding solemnity, in his captivating voice, which will long be remembered by his numerous auditory. He possessed a happy facility of adapting his discourse to the feelings of any sudden emergency: and his impressive sermon on the occasion of the memorable storm at sea and lamentable shipwrecks of December 1784, will carry his name to ages yet to come. It was published and afterwards translated into the French language. His remains were interred at Tynemouth priory on the 23rd of September, amidst a concourse of twelve-thousand people; the chief parochial officers and gentlemen of the parish, attended by many neighbouring clergy, and a numerous train of mourning coaches and gentlemen's carriages having gone to the extremity of their boundary, on the Newcastle road to meet the corpse, and pay their last sad respects at his grave. The ships in the harbour lowered their colours in mourning, and the flag on the church tower was also half-mast-high.—*Blyth Gleaner*.

1817 (Oct. 11).—The committee of the coal trade of the rivers Tyne and Wear, and the several subscribers to the superb service of plate, value two thousand pounds, which had been for some time preparing as a tribute of gratitude to sir Humphry Davy, for his invaluable discovery of the safety lamp, with several of their friends, assembled at the Queen's Head inn, to partake of a dinner given to that distinguished philosopher on the presentation of the plate. John George Lambton, esq., M. P., for the county of Durham, in the chair.—

Local Papers.

October 16.—An immense whale was found at sea by the fishermen of North Sunderland, which, after great exertion, they succeeded in towing on shore at the pier of that place, where it lay for some time, during which crowds of people viewed this stranger.—*Blyth Gleaner*.

October 19.—In the evening a desperate attempt was made to escape from the gaol of Newcastle by Henry Scope, a convict under sentence of death, for house breaking, but whose sentence was changed to transportation: as Mr. Gee the gaoler entered the place of confinement, to examine it, along with the turnkey, he threw a tub-full of ashes at his head, with a view of blinding him, and then struck at him with a stick; in the scuffle, a dog belonging to the turnkey fastened on the arm of Mr. Gee, through mistake, and bit it so severely that amputation became necessary; Scope was at length with difficulty secured, and chained to the floor; the other prisoners in the same room did not join in the attempt.—*Blyth Mon. Gleaner*.

October 21.—The mayor, the sheriff and stewards of the incorporated companies rode the boundaries of the corporation of Newcastle.

When near Kenton, a melancholy accident occurred; a boy was thrown down by one of the horses and so severely hurt by the hind feet of another horse following close upon it, that he died soon after.—*Blyth Mon. Gleaner.*

1817 (Nov. 3).—An explosion took place in Ouston colliery, near Chester-le-street, by which a man named John Turnbull lost his life, and three others were severely burnt.—*Local Papers.*

November 7.—At midnight an uninhabited house in Sandgate near the Folly, belonging to Mr. Cathey, tallow chandler, was discovered to be on fire, supposed to have been caused by some incendiary. The engines were soon brought, and by the prompt exertions of the firemen, the adjoining premises were preserved. The damage consisted in the internal part of the building being all consumed, with a considerable quantity of rags and old rope which were deposited there.—*Blyth Mon. Gleaner.*

November 8.—On the receipt of the intelligence in Newcastle, of the death of the princess Charlotte (Nov. 6.), the great bell of St. Nicholas, and the bells of all the other churches tolled heavily for an hour, and the flag of the castle was displayed half staff high; many of the ships in the harbour made a similar mournful display. At Durham, the bells of St. Nicholas' church rung a mournful peal, and the great bell of the cathedral was also tolled for a considerable time. At North and South Shields the bells of the churches rung muffled peals, and the ships displayed their mourning. The flags on Clifford's fort and Tynemouth castle, were also hoisted in mourning. November 19th being the day when the mortal remains of this most beloved princess were to be consigned to the cold and silent tomb, it was observed in Newcastle with every mark of solemnity and sorrow. At sun rise, on the signal of a gun from the castle, a muffled peal was slowly rung on the bells of St. Nicholas, and the other churches, and the flags of the castle and the ships in the harbour were hoisted half mast high. All the shops were closed, and business of every kind, suspended. Divine service was performed at the several churches in the morning, and was most numerously attended. The mayor and corporation passed in slow procession to St. Nicholas' church, where also the several lodges of free masons in that town and Gateshead assembled, properly attired in black, with hatbands and white gloves, to join in the mournful service of the day; the church was exceedingly crowded. The pulpit, reading desks, &c., were all hung with black cloth. After service, the church bells tolled heavily for a considerable time, and at sun-set, another mournful peal closed the observances of the day. At Gateshead church, there was also service in the evening, when an affecting sermon was preached by the rev. Christopher

Benson, of Newcastle. This mournful event was similarly observed at all the other towns.—*Local Papers*.



GROINED ARCHWAY OF NEWGATE,
With Preparations for Execution, looking North (1817).

1817 (Dec. 3).—The awful sentence of the law was carried into execution against Charles Smith, for the wilful murder of Charles Stuart. About ten o'clock the procession moved from Newgate to the gallows, which was erected on the town-moor, Newcastle, a little north of the barracks, on the opposite side of the road. When arrived at the gallows, he, in a firm and impressive manner, addressed the spectators at some length, denying his having shed the blood of Stuart, and stating that he forgave all who had appeared against him. After joining in prayer with the Roman Catholic clergyman (rev. Mr. Worwick), he was launched into eternity. His body was afterwards taken to the surgeons' hall for dissection. He had been respited from the 18th of August.—*Ibid*.

December.—Died, at Matfen, Northumberland, John Armstrong, gamekeeper to sir Edward Blackett, bart. He completed his 100th year in August last, on which occasion he was regaled, by his own desire, with roast beef and bottled ale. He retained all his faculties to the last; and his eye-sight was so good that during his last summer he could read a chapter in the bible without spectacles.—*Gent's Mag*.

December 14.—Died, at Hexham, Margaret Davison, aged 102 years.—*Local Papers*.

December 18.—An explosion took place in the Plain pit, at Rain-

ton colliery, when twenty-seven persons (eleven men and sixteen boys) lost their lives; the accident took place before all the workmen had descended to their work; had it occurred a little time later, there would have been upwards of one hundred and sixty men and boys in the pit, most of whom, it is probable would have perished.—*Local Papers*.

1817 (Dec.).—A seal weighing four stones, was shot at Bywell, about twenty-five miles from the mouth of the Tyne, and ten above the run of the tide.—*Blyth Mon. Gleaner*.

This year, Mr. Grey of Millfield hill, found near the traces of an ancient encampment, a short distance from Flodden hill, a tumulus, which, on removal, exhibited a very singular sepulchre. In the centre of which a large urn was found, but in many pieces. It had either been broken by the stones falling upon it when digging, or had crumbled on the admission of air. This urn was surrounded by a number of cells formed of flat stones in the shape of graves, but too small to hold the body in its natural state. These sepulchral recesses contained nothing except ashes, or dust of the same kind as that in the urn.—*Hist. of Northd.*

The dispensary in Oldgate, Morpeth, was established in 1817. This useful institution is supported by subscription.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

This year, Gilesgate moor, Durham (270 acres) was divided. The marquis and marchioness of Londonderry, had one sixteenth allotted as lord and lady of the manor, and reserved the mines.—*Surtees*.

This year, died at Rushyford, Durham, Mrs. Mary Young, aged 101 years.—*Local Papers*.

A barrow upon an eminence, which served as a place of execution for the castle of Bamborough in feudal times, was partly opened in this year, and was found to contain numerous graves belonging to the British, or unconverted Saxon period. In some instances the skeletons were stretched at length, in graves made of thin stones; and in others the bodies had been reduced to ashes by fire, and the ashes themselves had been collected in rudely ornamented and sun-baked urns, which were found inverted in small square cavities of six stones each, just large enough to contain them.—*Raine's No. Dur.*

Presbyterian chapel, Wallsend founded. The register of births and baptisms, extending from 1817 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

Bethel chapel (Independent), Villiers-street, Bishopwearmouth, was founded. The register of baptisms, 233 entries, extends from 1811 to 1836; and that of burials, 156 entries, from 1826 to 1837.—*Ibid.*

New court chapel (Baptist), Westgate-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne founded. The register of births, 99 entries, extending from 1817 to 1836.—*Ibid.*

1818 (Jan. 10).—A savings' bank was opened at Newcastle, and upwards of £300 paid in by between sixty and seventy depositors.—*Local Papers*.

In the evening of the same day, a partial lighting of the gas lights took place in such of the shops in Newcastle as had completed their arrangements. The lamps in Moseley-street were not lighted till the 13th (Tuesday evening), when a great crowd witnessed their first lighting up.—*Local Rec.*

January 12.—A numerous and most respectable party of gentlemen dined together at the Assembly rooms, in Newcastle, (Charles John Brandling, esq., of Gosforth, in the chair), on the occasion of presenting a piece of plate (a tankard of large dimensions) to Mr. George Stephenson, for the services rendered to science and humanity by the invention of his safety lamp. This, added to a former donation of the coal trade at large, amounted to nearly £1,000.—*Ibid.*

February 8.—Died, in the workhouse at Bishop Auckland, Hannah Robinson, aged 103 years.—*Local Papers*.

February 12.—Died, at Haggerstone, in Northumberland, Thomas Ewart, aged 101 years.—*Ibid.*

February 14.—Died, at Sunderland, Mrs. Mary Usher, aged 101 years.—*Ibid.*

February 15.—The chapel of St. Andrew, at North Shields, was first opened for service, by the rev. John Wilson, A. M., after the solemn Presbyterian form of Scotland. The foundation stone of this chapel was laid in June 1817. The register of births and baptisms, extending from 1817 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com. &c.*

February 18.—Died, at North Shields, Jane Macdonald, aged 101 years.—*Local Papers*.

February 21.—Died, in Sunderland Old Road, in the chapelry of Heworth, at three o'clock in the morning, Hannah Bell, aged 100 years, and at nine the same morning, James Bell, her husband aged 103 years. He had been indisposed for some time; and a few days previous to his dissolution, his wife observed to him, that he would not live long, but that she would go before him, which she did as above stated; without any previous illness she complained of being sick, and expired. Their youngest daughter, aged 68, attended them during their last moments.—*Ibid.*

March 10.—The workmen in digging for the foundations of a semi-circular addition to the north side of Bedlington church, discovered three grave-stones, with crosses and swords, in the style of the 11th or 12th centuries, and one of them with "Ora pro nobis" upon it. In pulling down the north wall, there was also found, the fragment of a pillar 14 inches high, of the form of an irregular octagon, measuring



eight inches by five at the top, and having its two narrowest sides ploughed perpendicularly with two flutings. Three of the other sides bear a fragment of an inscription; "CRUX OR LVX VNDIQUE FVLGET AMATA" and the other three are decorated with a griffin, and fret work in relief, as here represented. Besides the above there were found the remains of a man, supposed to be those of Cuthbert Watson, a noted sleep-walker, who was killed upon the spot where they were found. He had risen in his sleep, Feb. 14, 1669, and was in the act of climbing the north buttress of the tower with great ease and firmness; but a person passing by at the time, and dreading the danger of his situation, spoke to him, and he awoke, fell, and was instantly killed. This story is supported by the current tradition of the place, by an entry said to be in the parish register, and by the above date, and the words "WATSON'S WAKE" cut upon the buttress.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

1818 (March 24).—Died, in the Keelmen's hospital, Newcastle, Ann Hamilton, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers.*

Same day, a large floating dock, belonging to Mr. Farrington, ship builder, was launched from his yard at Sandgate shore, Newcastle, in the presence of many hundreds of spectators.—*Ibid.*

March 27.—A grand masonic procession took place from Mr. Smith's the Anchor inn, at Wooler, which was met by a deputation of the trustees, elders, and others of the congregation of Protestant Dissenters of the West chapel, the rev. Mr. Mitchell, minister, and proceeded to the site fixed upon for a new meeting-house, where the foundation stone was laid by Mr. Richard Jobson. Under the stone were deposited in a sealed bottle, various coins of George III., and a roll of parchment containing a list of the presiding officers of the society and the lodges, after which, an appropriate oration was delivered by brother Joseph Armstrong.—*Ibid.*

April 2.—Early on the morning an alarming fire broke out in the

yard of the Fighting Cocks public-house in the Bigg Market, Newcastle, the property of Mr. George Lister. How the fire originated, could not be ascertained. It was a most fortunate circumstance that the wind was low, or from the near vicinity of Messrs. Angas's coach manufactory, the most alarming results might have been anticipated. —*Blyth Mon. Gleaner.*



ENTRANCE TO FIGHTING COCKS' YARD.

1818 (April 15).—At the anniversary meeting of the Royal Humane society, holden at the London tavern, his royal highness the duke of Sussex, president of the society, delivered the honorary medallion to John Davison, esq., of Bishopwearmouth, for his invention of the improved Sunderland life-boat. His royal highness in addressing Mr. Davison, observed the society had been highly pleased with the life-boat, the principle of which his royal highness explained to the party assembled. He also stated that the society was much gratified by Mr. D's being present to receive the medal in person, and he further observed as one of the royal family, they were deeply interested in every invention that tended to preserve the lives of his majesty's subjects, and condescendingly added, in presenting the medal to Mr. Davison, that he had well deserved it.—*Mon. Mag.*

May 2.—A fire broke out in the Hartford, London trader, captain James Otway, belonging to Mr. Robson, wharfinger, of Newcastle. She was lying near the cinder kilns, on the south side of the Tyne; and about one o'clock on the morning, the alarm of fire was given by the mate and his wife, who, with a boy, were the only persons on

board. Two engines from neighbouring glass-houses were not long in arriving at the place, and about four o'clock, one of the engines from the Newcastle fire office, proceeded down the river in a wherry. Every exertion was made to prevent the progress of the fire. The vessel was scuttled, but being in shallow water, she of course sunk very little. At one time the flames issued through the sky-light, set fire to the trysail, and would certainly have destroyed all the rigging, had not a man instantly cut away the lanyards on one side of the vessel, which caused the mainmast to fall overboard. Notwithstanding these efforts, the fire continued to rage in the cabin, (where it originated) and the after part of the hold till six o'clock, and consequently did considerable damage to the vessel, as well as destroying every thing on board belonging to the captain and the crew; fortunately no goods were on board. A new cable was found lying coiled, apparently as perfect as when first laid into the vessel, but upon being touched, fell into dust. William Lamb, who was employed at the Tyne Glass house, unfortunately fell down the hatchway; it was not long before he was brought up with a hook, but life had fled; he left a widow and five children, for whom a subscription was set on foot.—*Local Papers*.

1818 (May 8).—A violent thunder-storm was experienced in various parts of Northumberland. At Hardriding, the electric fluid descended a chimney, when a young woman, sitting by the fire, was struck senseless, a dog was killed, and the house was much damaged.—*Gent's. Mag.*

May 11.—Died, in Northumberland-square, North Shields, Mr. Robert Wilkinson, librarian to the Public Subscription Library, Howard-street, aged 48 years. He was well skilled in the mathematics, as many of his productions in the Diaries and other publications, will testify. His calculations, often made without putting pen to paper, were very astonishing. He was also a poet of no mean celebrity. In short, in him were combined some of the rarest qualities of the human mind. Mr. Wilkinson was a native of Northumberland.—*Local Papers*.

May 30.—Died, at his house in Welbeck-street, Cavendish-square, London, in the 54th year of his age, William Burdon, esq., of Hartford-house, in Northumberland, a gentleman of great literary attainments. Mr. Burdon was a native of Newcastle, and educated at the Free Grammar-school there, from whence he was sent to Emanuel college, Cambridge, where he obtained a fellowship. Mr. Burdon was designed for the church, but on reading the early history of Christianity, he came to the conclusion of not entering into priest's orders, and he resigned his fellowship in 1796. After his retirement from

the university, a number of curious and valuable works proceeded from his fertile pen. His publications were—"Three Letters addressed to the Bishop of Llandaff. Cambridge, 1795," "Life and Character of Buonaparte," "Examination of the Pursuits of Literature," "Materials for Thinking" 2 vols. 8vo., "Letters on the Affairs of Spain," "Thoughts on Politics, Morality, and Literature," "A Vindication of Pope and Grattan," "Treatise on the Privileges of the House of Commons," and several miscellaneous essays and papers in the periodical publications of the day. For some years, a small swelling had affected his thigh; this increasing, and occasioning an intense and unrelenting pain, he removed to London in 1817, for the purpose of an operation; the consequence was, that the thigh was amputated close to the trunk of the body. In two months he was able to take an airing in his carriage, although he was never free from pain. About the middle of May he gradually relapsed, and found great difficulty in breathing, attended with spasms, and expired as above stated.—*Local Rec.*

1818 (June 2).—The Society of Arts presented the silver medal and ten guineas to Mr. John Common, of Denwick, near Alnwick, for his invention of a double-drill turnip sower. He was also presented with thirty guineas from the Highland society for this invention. The following curious account of Mr. Common's family, who have been remarkable for stature, strength, longevity, and cleverness, may be interesting. His great-grandfather, Thomas, lived until he was above 110 years of age. Some time before his death, which happened at Dunsheugh, he got a new set of teeth. He left seven sons: one of them, named Andrew, measured twenty-seven inches across the shoulders; and frequently went to Alnwick market from Thrunton, with a stick over his shoulder, to which a boll of peas was suspended. Robert, another son, seized two men who were assaulting his master at Warkworth Barns, and, carrying one of them under each arm, ran and threw them both into the Coquet. Being present when a party of men were trying their strength by throwing an axe toward a house at High Buston, he joined in the sport; but instead of throwing it *toward* the house he threw it over it. There was another son, named Matthew, possessed of uncommon strength. At one time he leaped forwards and backwards over a yoke of oxen in Alnwick streets. Thomas, the youngest, Mr. Common's grandfather, was the least, yet he weighed fourteen stones. He had two sons, Thomas, and Robert, Mr. Common's father. They were both ingenious mechanics and noted pugilists. Thomas excelled in the erection of wind-mills and steam-engines; and Robert, in making winnowing machines on an economical plan. He made some improve-

ments in the construction of ploughs, and invented the bonnet maker's mangle. He also performed well on the bagpipes and violin, both of which instruments he made himself. When a boy, he was severely corrected by his father, for standing upon his head on the steeple of Shilbottle church. His eldest son, Thomas, was an eminent millwright at Quebec. William, another son, carried on the same business in Buston, his native place. He possessed a portion of the nerve and agility of his forefathers, as he could leap through a hoop, two feet in diameter, while a tall man held it above his head. His brother, John Common, (from whom these particulars were obtained,) when a youth, stood upon his head on the highest tower of Warkworth castle. He performed the same feat on the edge of the grate of Brislee tower, and on the stern piece of a boat while agitated on the water. He has also laid his hands on a board the height of his chin, sprung up, and rested upon his head. He has likewise walked upon his elbows on level ground, and upon his hands on the battlement of Warkworth bridge, and the highest part of Eshott-hall! About the time that king James I. mounted the English throne, one of this wonderful family farmed the Freestone-Barn, near Whittingham, and tradition records how boldly he fought with a party of moss-troopers who had stolen his cattle. John, the brother of Mr. Common's great-grandfather before mentioned, lived until he was 115 years old; and Peter, another brother, until he exceeded his 132nd year. He died at Rugly, about ninety years ago. This patriarch was casting flags on Hazon moor, when a Mr. Lisle rode up, and demanded to know by whose authority he worked there? "I have cast flags here by times," said Peter, "above a hundred years, and no man ever asked me the question before." "Cast on while you live," replied the gentleman, throwing him half-a-crown; "I will never forbid you."—John while serving at Titlington, was seized by a party of soldiers, whom his master, in a joke, had sent to take him; but he defended himself so resolutely with the spade, that the poor fellows were glad to effect their escape. His eye-sight remained unimpaired to the last; so that a few days before he died, while lying in bed, he could read a printed paper that was pasted up at some distance upon the wall of his room. He was buried at Warkworth.—*Local Rec.*

1818 (July 19).—Sunday in the afternoon a tremendous fall of rain called by the country people a water-spout, fell upon Davy-Shield common, and caused the rivulet which passes Otterburn, to overflow its banks, carrying away potatoes, corn, &c. The rise was so rapid, that most of the inhabitants of the village of Otterburn were compelled to quit their houses for safety: the women and children were carried off upon the men's shoulders. In a few minutes all was confusion and desola-

tion. Mr. Anderson of the Inn suffered greatly: his lower apartments were inundated to a considerable height, the ale and the spirits were all set afloat, and his garden and pasture completely spoiled for the season. The stream entered the shop of Mr. A. Thompson, grocer, and was in a little time eight inches above the counter. The master of the shop undoubtedly would have perished in the flood, had not his very long coat, which he was in the habit of wearing, kept him buoyant until rescued by some of his neighbours from his perilous situation. Scarcely an inhabitant of the village, west of the bridge, but has been a sufferer more or less. This scene was truly awful—swine, hay, dunghills covered with poultry, and various utensils of husbandry were all driven off by the flood. Fortunately, however, the river Reed was not much swollen at the time the burn was at its greatest height, otherwise it is conjectured the greater part of the town would have been swept away.—*Blyth Mon. Gleaner*.

1818 (July 22).—On the morning, Edward, son of Mr. Beckinton, of the Ouseburn, near Newcastle, was unfortunately drowned while bathing in the burn at Temple Vale. In attempting to swim, he got out of his depth; after coming up the second time, he called out to his brothers, and they immediately gave the alarm to five men working about thirty yards distant, but they inhumanly disregarded them.—*Ibid*.

July 28.—A new burial-ground which had been added to the churchyard at Sunderland, was consecrated by the lord bishop of Oxford.—*Local Papers*.

July 28.—Died, at the pin-manufactory, Durham, Mrs. Catherine Richardby, aged 102 years.—*Ibid*.

July 30.—The additional cemetery adjoining St. Andrew's churchyard, in Newcastle, was consecrated by the lord bishop of Oxford, amidst an immense concourse of spectators.—*Ibid*.

July 30.—His imperial highness the grand duke Michael, brother to the emperor of Russia, accompanied by his suite, arrived at the Bridge inn, Sunderland. They were soon after waited upon by the Rev. Dr. Gray, whom they accompanied to the rectory, where they took refreshment. They afterwards inspected the iron bridge, patent ropery, barracks, exchange, &c., and took an excursion up the river Wear in a boat. During the time of the grand duke's visit at Sunderland, a guard of honour was placed at his door. Next morning, his imperial highness and suite left Sunderland for Newcastle. They soon after paid a visit to the Royal Jubilee school, where they were received by the committee and the master,—the boys, who had broken up for the harvest holidays the day before, having been expressly assembled. After staying here a short while, the party paid a visit to

the low glass-houses and Heaton colliery. Next morning they left Newcastle for Alnwick castle, where they were engaged to dine with the duke of Northumberland. On their arrival, his highness was received on the steps of the principal entrance by their graces the duke and duchess of Northumberland, and immediately upon his alighting, the band struck up "God save the King," and a salute of 21 guns was fired.—*Local Rec.*

1818 (July).—A large painting (seventeen by seven feet), by Tintoretto, of our Saviour washing the apostles' feet, presented to St. Nicholas' church, Newcastle, by Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., was placed at his expense above the altar-table, the church having undergone a thorough repair and cleaning.—*Local Papers.*

August.—M. Cottu, the French judge who tried sir Robert Wilson, and Messrs. Bruce and Hutchinson, for aiding the escape of Lavalette, attended on the northern circuit, being sent by the French government to observe and report the British mode of administering justice, particularly as regarded the rules of evidence and reception of proofs. The French judge appeared to be very attentive to the proceedings.—*Ibid.*

August 1.—The lord bishop of Oxford consecrated a piece of ground which was added to the cemetery of Berwick church.—*Ibid.*

August 4.—The mayor and corporation of Newcastle, attended by the proper officers, waited upon the duke of Northumberland (whilst on a visit to Newcastle), and presented to him the freedom of that town, which they had previously voted to him. After the presentation of the freedom, the bells of St. Nicholas' church struck up a merry peal, and a salute was fired from the guns on the castle.—*Ibid.*

August 5.—An explosion of inflammable air took place in Wall's End colliery, by which four men lost their lives. This is the only explosion that has been known to have happened at the Davy lamp. It occurred as follows:—Two men and two boys were working in an explosive mixture. One of the men extinguished his *Davy* in trimming it, and sent one of the boys to the "stationary" light, in a safe part of the mine, to get it re-lighted. The boy returning with it in haste, fell when near to the man to whom he was carrying it, and falling with the lamp upon the corner of a cast-iron tram-plate, burst a hole in the wire gauze cylinder of the lamp, and the explosion instantly took place. The man survived a few hours, and told Mr Buddle the circumstance, who took up the Davy on the spot where the boy was killed, and found it in the state described.—*Ibid.*

August 8, 9, 10.—The lord bishop of Oxford, as the representative of the late venerable prelate (Barrington) of the diocese, consecrated the three new churches and cemeteries for the new parishes of Thor-



WARK CHURCH.

neyburn, Greystead, and Wark, which had been erected within the extensive parish and rectory of Simonburn, in Northumberland, which became, on the death of the rev. Dr. Scott, the former incumbent, separated into six distinct rectories and parishes, viz.—Simonburn, Wark, Bellingham, Thorneyburn, Falstone, and Greystead. On the 11th, his lordship also consecrated the new chapel and cemetery at Humshaugh, as a chapel of ease and additional cemetery to the parish of Simonburn. The above new churches and chapel were built by the commissioners and governors of Greenwich hospital, who are the patrons of Simonburn, and of the several above new rectories and parishes. After the conclusion of the consecration of Thorneyburn church and cemetery, his lordship proceeded to Falstone, where he consecrated the ground for the additional cemetery to Falstone church-yard.—*Local Papers.*

1818 (Aug. 15).—Died, at Durham, aged 82, Mr. A. Featonby. This person, who lived during the greater part of his life in a state of abject penury, is said to have died worth £20,000. He had not unfrequently accepted employment on the turnpike roads in the breaking of stones, &c.; and the coat which he wore up to the time of his death was so patched, that scarcely a particle of the cloth of which it was originally composed, could be discovered amongst the “shreds and patches” which it exhibited.—*Mon. Mag.*

September 24.—About four o'clock in the afternoon, an alarming fire broke out in Hexham abbey, the seat of T. W. Beaumont, esq., M.P. for Northumberland. The building was in the form of a quadrangle, the whole of the south and west sides of which, and part also of the north side, were entirely consumed. About seven o'clock, the roofs fell in with a tremendous crash. About eight o'clock, an express arrived in Newcastle, requesting the assistance of the engines

belonging to the Newcastle fire-office, which were consequently dispatched with the greatest expedition. The engines arrived at Hexham between one and two o'clock, when the ruins were still in flames, but a plentiful supply of water being at hand, the engines were immediately set to work, and soon succeeded in extinguishing them. The damage was said to be about £10,000. There was little wind at the time, and it fortunately was from the south-east, to which providential circumstance was attributed the preservation of the venerable church, which is close adjoining the east side of the abbey.—*Local Papers.*

1818 (Oct. 11).—As Joseph Madelen, a miner, employed in South Moor colliery, in the county of Durham, was hewing at a solid stratum of coal, about six feet in thickness, and thirteen fathoms from the surface of the earth, he found a frog enclosed in the solid mass, which, immediately on being liberated, began to exercise the functions of animal life. The recess in the coal in which it was found, was exactly fitted to its body, and had apparently no communication whatever with the surface of the block. The animal was exactly the colour of the coal, but on being put into a vessel of water, its sooty covering disappeared, and it appeared speckled like the rest of its species.—*Ibid.*

October 30.—The workmen of Collingwood Main colliery, in cutting through part of the lands at Chirton, near North Shields, for a water level, came to the remains of a human body, enclosed in flagstones set upon their edges, about four feet below the surface, and covered over by others of a similar description. Only a skull and two or three mutilated bones were found, which, on being exposed to the air, crumbled into dust; the bottom of the enclosure contained nothing else, except some white sand.—*Ibid.*

This month, died at Hatherwick, in Northumberland, Mrs. Potts, in the 104th year of her age.—*Ibid.*

November 3.—His imperial highness the archduke Maximilian, cousin to the emperor of Russia, with his suite, on their tour to the north, honoured North Shields and Tynemouth with their presence. Accompanied by Nicholas Fairless, esq., and other gentlemen, he visited the ancient priory and fortifications of Tynemouth, the North Shields subscription library, and the various manufactories, and expressed himself highly gratified, particularly with Mr. Flinn's improved harpoon guns, whale lances, and other instruments used in the Greenland fishery. The same evening his imperial highness and suite arrived at the Queen's head inn, Newcastle, and on the following day visited several of the collieries on the north side of the Tyne, below the bridge, attended by William Clark, esq., of Benton, and captain

Morgan. They also examined St. Nicholas' church, and other objects of curiosity in that town. On the 5th, they left Newcastle for Alnwick castle, on their way to Scotland.—*Local Papers.*

1818 (Nov. 10).—On the morning, John and Lancelot Younghusband, brothers, and very respectable farmers at Heckley Grange, near Alnwick, the one about 70 years of age and the other 60, left their house between the hours of nine and ten o'clock; when one of them went to give instructions to a boy ploughing in the field, the other brother approached, and asked, "Are you ready?" Being answered in the affirmative, they left the field together. Their long absence from home created alarm, and servants were sent to search for them, when they were discovered within a few yards of each other, each having his throat cut, and a razor near his body. A watch was also found beside one of them, from which it was inferred that they had resolved to die at the same moment. A jury held an inquest, and after several adjournments, returned a verdict of *Felo de se*. The farming stock and utensils were then valued, and the bodies were buried at midnight, in cross roads near the church. This not being considered a sufficient compliance with the terms of the statute, an order was given by the magistrates to the churchwardens, that the sentence of the law should be carried strictly into execution. The bodies were accordingly taken up, and buried again, amidst a great concourse of people, in a highway near Hinding-lane, not far from the spot where they committed the fatal act.—*Ibid.*

November 16.—A numerous and respectable meeting of the inhabitants of Bishopwearmouth and Sunderland, and their vicinities, was holden at the Exchange Buildings, Sunderland, (the rev. Dr. Gray in the chair) to consider the expediency of establishing an infirmary at Sunderland. January 10th, 1822, the foundation stone was laid by the right honourable lord Stewart, now marquis of Londonderry.—*Ibid.*

November 28.—Died, at Bishopwearmouth, in his 45th year, George Wilson Meadley, esq. Mr. Meadley wrote "Memoirs of Dr. Paley," 8vo.; he was also the author of "Memoirs of Algernon Sydney," 8vo. &c. &c. His remains were followed to the grave by the president of the Sunderland library (of which he was one of the founders), and a very large party of the subscribers and other gentlemen.—*Ibid.*

November.—Died, at Monekton, in the county of Durham, Elizabeth Clarke, aged 103 years.—*Ibid.*

This month, the entire skeleton of a woman was found in a bog, which was draining, on a farm in the parish of Monk Hesledon, near Castle Eden. The brain was in a considerable state of preservation.

The skeleton was much bent in the middle, as if thrust by force into the bog. No appearance of clothes remained.—*Surtees*.

1818 (Dec. 2).—Being the day appointed for the funeral of her majesty, Queen Charlotte, was observed in Newcastle with every mark of mourning and respect. All business was suspended, the shops being universally shut. The flag of the castle was hoisted half staff high, and the flags of all the ships in the river were displayed half mast high. Slow muffled peals were rung upon the bells of the several churches, at different times during the day, and the great bell of St. Nicholas tolled very slowly from one till two o'clock. At sunset, minutes guns were fired from the guns on the castle for the space of one hour, each gun being followed by a solemn toll of the bell of St. Nicholas. The usual service was performed in the churches on the morning. Her majesty died November 17th, at Kew palace, in the 75th year of her age.—*Local Papers*.

This year, Brancepath castle, in the county of Durham, was restored by its proprietor, Matthew Russell, esq. to its ancient extent and magnificence, under the able direction of Mr. John Patterson, of Edinburgh, and a new tower was added to the castle: the towers now are—the Constable's, the Essex, the Russell (new from the foundation), the Nevill, Bulmer, and St. Brandon; and this noble castle now combines the massy grandeur of the feudal baron, with the splendour and luxury of modern refinement. In repairing the ceiling of the present drawing-room, a groined roof was exposed to view, of singular beauty. The groining was covered with the inscription "*mais droyte*," and the interstices were abundantly charged with the armorial ensigns of the order of the Garter, with faint traces of the motto; and also the "Nevill cross," encircled with a garter, but without any inscription.—*Sharp's Memorials of the Rebellion*.

1819 (Jan. 10).—Died, at Throckley, in Northumberland, Mr. Alder Penman, aged upwards of 100 years.—*Local Papers*.

February 7.—Died, in All Saints' poor-house, in Newcastle, Margaret Purvis, in her 100th year. She was the mother of the famous musician, William Purvis, better known by the name of *Blind Willie*,—*Ibid*.

February 12.—Died, at Hawkhill, Northumberland, David Watson, aged 102 years.—*Ibid*.

February 15.—Died, at Longhorsley, Northumberland, Mrs. Mary White, aged 102 years.—*Ibid*.

February 28.—Died, at Lumley, near Chester-le-street, Eleanor Turner, aged 100 years.—*Ibid*.

March 22.—Jonathan Raine, esq., arrived in the city of Durham, and opened his commission for holding a general gaol delivery in the

four northern counties. March 27th, he arrived in Newcastle, and opened his commission in the town and county courts. These were the first spring assizes held north of York.—*Local Papers*.

1819 (April 12).—Joseph Acheson, aged 67, was executed in front of the new county courts at Durham, for a rape on the body of Isabella Ramshaw, a child under ten years of age. From the time of his condemnation to the period of his execution, he was very penitent, and often expressed a hope that his untimely end might be a warning to others, and deter them from the commission of such a crime as an ignorant course of life had led him to.—*Ibid*.

April 14.—The execution of Joseph Charlton, aged 24 years, for an unnatural crime, took place at Morpeth. He was conducted from the gaol to the place of execution in a chaise, when he ascended the platform with great firmness, but very penitent, and after spending some minutes in prayer, he was launched into eternity. After his body had hung the usual time, it was cut down and delivered to his friends. On the arrival of the hearse with the body at Earsdon, four miles from Tynemouth, it was met by near 1,000 people, and by the time of its arrival at Tynemouth priory, the concourse had increased to upwards of 2,000, yet great order was preserved. It was half-past eight o'clock at night when the procession reached the grave, in which it was deposited, with decent solemnity, by candle light.—*Ibid*.

April 15.—An elegant masked ball and supper took place at the assembly rooms, in Newcastle. From the preparations made by the committee, the entertainment was supposed never to have been surpassed in any provincial town. The costumes were superb, and the characters were supported with great judgement and spirit.—*Ibid*.

April 17.—Several of the Hartlepool fishing cobsles were overtaken when at sea, by a violent gale which blew from the E. S. E. and it was with the greatest difficulty they succeeded in ultimately reaching the shore, after many of them had been several times filled with water by the heavy seas which broke over them. On the first discovery of the alarming situation of the cobsles, the life-boat was launched with the most praiseworthy alacrity, and immediately proceeded to their assistance. Her approach gave fresh energy to the fishermen, who now redoubled their exertions, and most of them regained the shore without her aid: but one coble, in which were three very young men (Michael and Richard Coulson, and John Shepherd) was left at a considerable distance, and the weather being thick, and the approach to the harbour dangerous, they considered their fate inevitable; they were, however, fortunately discovered by the crew of the life-boat, and rescued from their perilous situation. Another coble containing three young men (Robert and William Pounder, and James Harrison) was

upset, the boat sunk, and the crew supported themselves in the water, by clinging to the loose mast, till another coble came to their assistance, when, by the active and praiseworthy exertions of Joshua Hastings, a powerful and clever seaman, they were taken on board his coble, and brought safe to land. On the Sunday following, the fishermen, with nearly the whole of their families and relatives, attended divine service at Hartlepool church, and offered up public thanks to the Almighty for their unexpected preservation.—*Gent's. Mag.*



TOWER OF HARTLEPOOL CHURCH (1816).

1819 (April 24).—Died, at his house, at Chimney-mills, on the Leazes, near Newcastle, Mr. John Mitchell, editor and printer of the *Tyne Mercury*, aged 47 years. April 27th, his remains were interred at the foot of the garden of his residence. The procession was conducted in the usual manner, and a numerous assemblage of friends attended the body to the grave. The funeral service was read in a most impressive manner, from the reformed liturgy of Dr. Lindsey, by the rev. William Turner, of Hanover-square chapel, who also delivered an address suited to the occasion.—*Local Papers.*

April 27.—The foundation stone of a bridge over the river Wear, near Lambton-hall, built by J. G. Lambton, esq., M. P. (late lord Durham), was laid on the south side of the river. It was completed

September 27th the same year. The bridge, a simple elegant design by Bonomi, consists of a single arch, of which the span is eighty-two feet six inches.—*Local Papers*.

1819 (May 25).—Died, at Nesham, near Darlington, Frances Water, a pauper, in her 101st year.—*Ibid*.

May 29.—Died, at North Shields, Mrs. Elizabeth Grey, aged 104 years.—*Ibid*.

June 4.—Died, John Bailey, esq., of Chillingham, Northumberland, aged 68 years. He was the son of Mr. William Bailey, of Blades Field, near Bowes, in the county of York. Mr. Bailey shewed a taste for drawing very early in life, and was patronized and assisted in his pursuits, both in drawing and in mathematical studies by the late George Dixon, of Cockfield, who was his uncle by marriage. He was employed when a young man by Mr. Dixon as tutor to his children, during which time he employed himself in his leisure hours in drawing and engraving many pieces which bear his name. He never followed engraving as a sole occupation. Mr. Dixon was a very ingenious man—a good mathematician, a mineralogist, a painter, an engraver, a great experimentalist in chemistry, hydraulics, and pneumatics, and also an excellent land-surveyor, and most beautiful planner. No doubt Mr. Bailey profitted largely in his scientific knowledge by living under the roof of his relation. Mr. Bailey, after attending to the education of his cousins, practiced land-surveying, and for a short time was mathematical teacher under the rev. John Farrer, at Witton-le-Wear. He there married the daughter of Nicholas Greenwell, esq. and shortly afterwards became lord Tankerville's land-agent at Chillingham, which he continued to the time of his death. He at the same time did a great deal of business as a general land agent and surveyor, and few men have greater claims to the gratitude of posterity for the many lasting improvements in rural economy planned and executed by him. Mr. Bailey engraved several of the plates of Hutchinson's topographical works; he was also the author of an "Essay on the Construction of the Plough," 8vo., and joint writer with Mr. Culley of the Northumberland Report, drawn up for the Board of Agriculture.—*Local Rec*.

June 7.—A very melancholy accident, from the careless handling of fire-arms, occurred at Fulwell, near Sunderland—Mr. Gregson, and Mr. Masterman, of Monkwearmouth, with two of Mr. Gregson's sons, were in a garden at Fulwell, Mr. Gregson having a double barrelled gun with him. One of the barrels had a few minutes before been fired off, and he was ignorant of the other being loaded. The boys were playing amongst the gooseberry bushes, and Mr. Masterman jocularly threatened to shoot them if they did not behave. Mr.

Gregson gave Mr. Masterman hold of the gun, when dreadful to relate, it went off, and shot one of Mr. Gregson's sons, aged, 8 years, dead upon the spot ! an inquest was holden on Tuesday by John Stobart, esq., coroner, and after a most attentive and patient investigation the jury returned a verdict of *accidental death*.—*Blyth Mon. Gleaner*.

1819 (June 7).—Died, at Allenheads, Northumberland, Mr. Peter Green, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers*.

June.—This month, as the sexton was digging a grave in the burial ground within Tynemouth castle, his spade struck against a stone coffin, which, on being examined, was found to contain a perfect skeleton, the bones of which were covered with leather, curiously cut and ornamented. On looking further, another coffin of the same description was found, which also contained a skeleton, but without the head. The bones of this latter were defended and adorned with leather in the same manner as the other. The leather was sewed tight round the bones, and it was therefore evident that the bodies had been anatomised before interment.—*Ibid*.

July 18.—Died, at North Shields, Mrs. Mary Ferguson, widow, aged 105 years.—*Ibid*.

July 19.—A terrible accident occurred at Sheriff-hill colliery, near Gateshead. After the hewers had left work, an explosion of fire-damp took place, which unfortunately proved fatal to two men and thirty-three boys who happened to be in that part of the mine. This event occurred only half-an-hour before the pit was to have finished its day's work, otherwise the loss would, in all probability, have been more extensive. Upwards of twenty men and boys were in other parts of the mine when the accident happened ; but fortunately escaped, a few only being slightly injured by the concussion and after-damp.—*Ibid*.

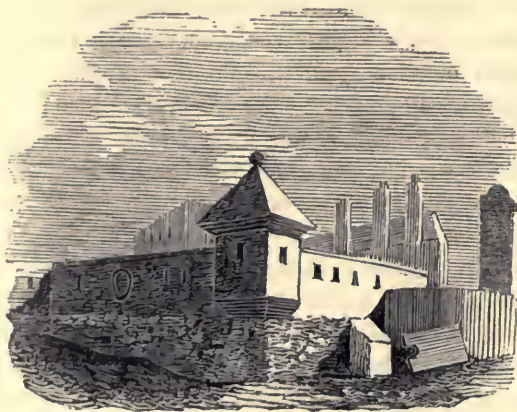
August 14.—About five o'clock in the afternoon, his royal highness prince Leopold, accompanied by baron Hardenbroke, sir Robert Gardiner, and Dr. Stockmar, arrived at the Queen's Head inn, in Newcastle. A considerable concourse of people assembled in front of the inn, and his highness repeatedly gratified their curiosity by exhibiting himself at the windows. In the course of the evening he visited the Northumberland glass-house, and saw the process of glass-making ; he also visited the Assembly rooms, with which he expressed himself much gratified. On the following morning (Sunday), his royal highness went to the house of William Loraine, esq., near St. Nicholas' church, where he condescendingly shewed himself at one of the windows to an immense number of persons assembled in front of the house. It being assize Sunday, as soon as the procession of the judges and corporate body had passed, and they had taken their seats

in the church, his highness, accompanied by sir William Scott, (afterwards lord Stowell, who was then on a visit to his relation, Joseph Forster, esq., mayor), and followed by his suite, proceeded to St. Nicholas' church, which he entered just before service commenced, and was conducted by sir William Scott to the corporation seat. The church was crowded to excess, in expectation of his attendance; and as he passed along the aisle, both in going and coming out of church, he repeatedly bowed to the company on each side. After service his royal highness proceeded to view the Guild-hall, from whence he went to the Mansion-house, and on his way was saluted by the guns on the castle. On his arrival at the Mansion-house, he was received in form by the corporate body in their robes, and conducted into the interior, where his highness partook of a collation. His highness soon after returned to the Queen's Head inn, and about half-past two o'clock left Newcastle for Alnwick castle to dine with his grace the duke of Northumberland. His royal highness arrived at Berwick, on Monday evening, about seven o'clock; his approach to that town was announced by a royal salute from the cannon on the fortifications, and his entrance greeted by the ringing of bells. During his short stay in Berwick, he was waited upon by the mayor and magistrates, when the former presented him with the freedom of the borough. His royal highness seemed much pleased with his reception.—*Local Papers.*

1819 (Aug. 16).—John King, for the wilful murder of James Hamilton, in the cabin of Newbottle colliery staith, during the night of Sunday, the 16th of the preceding May, was executed pursuant to his sentence, at the new drop, in front of the courts, in the city of Durham.—*Ibid.*

September.—In digging to make gas tanks, at the Low Lights, near North Shields, in a place called the Salt Marsh, in Pow Dean, at the depth of twelve feet six inches from the surface, the workmen came to a framing of large oak beams, black as ebony, pinned together with wooden pins or tree-nails; the whole resembling a wharf or pier, whither ships drawing nine or ten feet water had come. Muscleshells lay under an artificial spread or coating of fine clay, as in the bed of a river. Large oak beams were also found, hollowed out as if to convey water. Few stones were met with, only sandy black mud, twelve or thirteen feet deep, and one freestone, squared out in the middle to hold the foot of a wooden pillar; hammer marks were visible in the sides of the square hole. This has probably been part of the erections by the prior of Tynemouth, who at his own cost was obliged to remove, destroy or abolish the use of such, wharfs, markets, buildings, &c., as he had formed at North Shields. The mouth of this burn must have been a secure estuary guarded from

the sea by a peninsula of clay and sandy land, now called Prior's Point, whereon Clifford's Fort was erected in 1672. A prior fort occupied the same or nearly the same site. On the side of the peninsula above referred to, next to the estuary, salt pans were working in the time of the Priory, at Tynemouth; probably as early as the year 800, and so to the dissolution in 1539; and according to local history and other records, the Pow Pans were making salt in the reign of queen Elizabeth. These or the adjacent pans, were, according to Thoresby, engaged in the manufacture of salt in the latter part of the seventeenth century. In 1634, the corporation of the Trinity house, Newcastle, bought land near Tolland's, Delaval's, and Selby's pans, to erect their Low Light upon.—*Gent's Mag.*, &c.



PART OF CLIFFORD'S FORT (1843).

CHAPTER IX.



THE first stone of a Presbyterian chapel was laid on the 7th of September, 1819, at Thirston, near Felton, Northumberland, by Alexander Davison, esq., of Swarland, on a piece of ground generously granted by that gentleman, who also subscribed £40. to aid in the erection of the said chapel. On this occasion, the rev. George Atkin, of Morpeth, prayed, and an address was delivered by the rev. Alexander Hoy.—*Local Papers*.

September 23.—On the morning, a fire broke out in the dwelling-house of Mr. Young, of Westoe, near South Shields, which in a short time destroyed the whole fabric.—*Ibid*.

September 24.—A most flagrant outrage was committed at Stockton bridge. It had been generally expected that the tolls of the bridge would have ceased in the month of August, but from some expences not calculated upon, it was found necessary, by the trustees, to continue the tolls a short time longer. But the populace took the law into their own hands, and completely demolished the gates; two of them were thrown over the bridge into the river; the other was borne in triumph around the town, and afterwards burnt in the market-place amidst great acclamations. Some of the ring-leaders were taken, tried, and punished. The bridge was opened free of toll the following year.—*Brewster's Stockton*.

September 28.—Mr. William Sadler, the celebrated aeronaut, accompanied by another gentleman, ascended in a balloon at Liverpool, at a quarter past two, P. M. The wind blowing from the S. W., the balloon took a N. E. direction. They passed over the Wolds in

Yorkshire, and had a distant view of the Humber. They descended near Norton, about two miles from Stockton, in the county of Durham, at five minutes past five, having gone 120 miles in two hours and fifty minutes.—*Newc. Cour.*

1819 (Oct. 9).—A dreadful accident happened from the explosion of inflammable gas, in the George pit, near Lumley. The gas ignited at the candle of a hewer named Gee, who had worked into a board, where, owing, it was supposed, to a fall of the roof, a quantity of gas had accumulated from a blower. By this accident eleven men and boys were killed on the spot. Gee and another boy died on the following day of the injury they sustained, and many others were severely hurt.—*Local Papers.*

October 11.—A meeting of the inhabitants of Newcastle, and neighbourhood, to deliberate on the proceedings at Manchester, was held on the town-moor, near Newcastle, and was most numerously attended. In the early part of the forenoon, the reform societies of Benwell and Fawdon arrived in town, and proceeded to join the Newcastle society assembling in the Castle garth. At half past eleven, the reform societies of Winlaton, Gateshead, North and South Shields, Sunderland, and the eastern part of the Newcastle district, passed through the town. When this immensely long line arrived at the head of Northumberland-street, it halted until the party which had assembled in the Castle-garth, and which did not leave its station till twelve o'clock, passed by it, and took its place at the head of the procession, which then moved to the moor; the parade-ground, on which it had at first been intended to hold the meeting, not being sufficiently capacious to hold the prodigious numbers that attended. The whole was preceded by the hustings, which consisted of a covered platform raised upon the frame and wheels of a waggon, and drawn by three horses, decorated with red ribbons; the hustings were hung round with black cloth, and on the front were inscribed the words, in black letters on a white ground, "TRUTH ! ORDER ! JUSTICE !" Several of the reform societies which formed the procession, were preceded by a person bearing a *Roman fasces*, meant to signify union and strength, and by a band of music which played at intervals "Rule Britannia," "Scots wha hae wi' Wallace bled," &c. Next the band walked the committee, each member of which was distinguished by a white rod, at the top of which was a small knot of crape tied with white; after these came the classes into which the societies were divided; each being headed by a class leader, bearing at the end of a short black rod a small painted board, on which the number of the class and the initial letter of the society were painted. Each society was also attended with several flags, and at the head of the

whole was borne an union jack, hoisted half staff high, in token of mourning; many of the committees wore white hats with black hatbands, and many were in black. The classes walked four abreast, holding each others' hands. The Shields reformers were accompanied by about three hundred sailors. Several parties of female reformers were seen in the procession. On the most moderate computation, there could not be fewer than twenty or thirty thousand in rank, while some were of opinion the number was much greater. It was, however, afterwards ascertained by actual admeasurement, that the space occupied by the compact body of the meeting would hold seventy-six thousand persons, at the rate of four to a square yard; but when the thousands of scattered spectators are included, and the close manner in which the great body stood, the whole may be safely stated at one hundred thousand. The announcement of this meeting (by hand bill), excited a great deal of attention and curiosity, and many idle reports of meditated tumult were in previous circulation, but the result proved what little cause there was for apprehension, for never was there a meeting conducted with greater order and decorum, or one which passed off more peaceably.—*Local Papers*.

1819 (Oct. 14).—A serious disturbance took place at North Shields. The mayor of Newcastle, (Archibald Reed, esq.) had proceeded down the river with the civil power, aided by the boats of his majesty's ships, with a view of opening the navigation of the river, (which had been interrupted for some time by the riotous proceedings of the keelmen), and had gone on shore at North Shields. After the mayor, and the other gentlemen who accompanied him, had retired to the Northumberland Arms inn, the mob made an attack, with paving-stones and other missiles, upon the Speedwell steam-packet, by which several of the peace officers and the coxswain of the packet, were severely hurt; the marines then fired in protection of themselves and those in the steam-boat, when, unfortunately, one man, named Joseph Claxton, was shot upon the New Quay; this so exasperated the mob, that they turned their fury upon the inn, with threats of vengeance against the mayor, and exclaiming that they would have blood for blood. By the application of some iron pipes, they soon demolished the doors and windows of the inn, and liberated a man who had been taken into custody, when in the act of throwing stones. By the spirited exertions of Mr. Donkin, the high constable of the district, who fortunately arrived at the door in a chaise at the very time, they were held some time in check, and time was thus afforded Mr. Mayor and the gentlemen to escape by the back part of the inn. From the fury with which they were actuated, there was too much reason to fear that they would have carried their threats into execution; and

so eager were they to attain their object, that they searched every part of the house. Their design was, however, frustrated. They also sought to wreak their vengeance on the officers in the steam-boat, but these had fortunately escaped over in boats to the south side of the river. The mob continued in the streets in the most tumultuous state till a late hour, but the arrival of a party of the 6th dragoon guards from the barracks at Newcastle, somewhat quieted the fears of the inhabitants. The town continued agitated for several days. The jury, after having sat five days on the body of the unfortunate man, returned a verdict of *justifiable homicide*.—*Local Papers*.

1819 (Nov. 2).—Died, at Tynemouth, Mr. Robert Mills, aged 101 years.—*Ibid*.

November 5.—Died, at Throckley, Mr. John White, aged 105 years.—*Ibid*.

December 1.—Died, at Bishopwearmouth, Mr. John Stephenson, butcher, aged 102 years.—*Ibid*.

December 9.—Died, at his house in the Pudding-chare, Newcastle, George Gray, an eminent fruit-painter, in the 61st year of his age.



Mr. Gray, who was of very eccentric habits, was well skilled in chemistry and botany. His fruit pieces, when offered for sale, generally bring good prices. He was the son of Mr. Gilbert Gray, whose death is recorded at page 364, vol. ii. The annexed portrait of Mr. George Gray is engraved from a painting by Mr. H. P. Parker.—*Local Rec. &c.*

1819 (Dec. 12).—Died, in Pipewellgate, Gateshead, Mr. John Anderson, aged 103 years.—*Local Papers.*

December 22.—Died, at Sunderland, Mrs. Catherine Clark, aged 107 years.—*Ibid.*

December 26.—Mr. Joseph Price, of Gateshead, glass-manufacturer, presented to the inhabitants of that parish, a valuable and elegant window of stained glass, for the south transept of St. Mary's church; in the centre is a representation of the annunciation of the virgin, to whom the church is dedicated, below which is a reference to St. Luke, chap. i. verses 28 and 38, and the following inscription:—"Presented to the inhabitants of St. Mary, Gateshead, by Joseph Price, 1819." On each side of this the principal compartment, are also arched divisions of coloured glass, into which are introduced the arms of the borough of Gateshead. On a line crossing the window, and dividing the above from the lower compartments, which are composed of variegated stained glass, are twelve coats of arms in the following order, viz.:—of the then rector (rev. John Collinson); of the rev. Henry Phillpotts (now bishop of Exeter), and Dr. Prosser, late rectors; of Adam Askew, esq.; Cuthbert Ellison, esq., M. P.; the bishop of Durham (Barrington); the earls of Darlington and Strathmore; sir Thomas Liddell, bart. (now lord Ravensworth); sir Thomas Clavering, bart.; John George Lambton, esq., M. P. (late lord Durham); and sir Matthew White Ridley, bart., M. P. The brilliancy of the colouring, and the good arrangement of the drapery reflect great credit on the manufactory of the donor. At a meeting of the inhabitants, held in the vestry on the above day, (the rev. John Collinson, rector, in the chair) the thanks of the parish was unanimously voted to Mr. Price, for his very liberal donation.—*Ibid.*

December 26.—Died, at Chilton, Durham, Robert Roan, labourer, aged 105 years.—*Ibid.*

This month the Northumberland and Newcastle volunteer corps of cavalry was formed, under the command of Charles John Brandling, esq., of Gosforth House; and a troop of dismounted yeomanry, to be joined to, and to act with the cavalry, was raised in Newcastle.—*Ibid.*

The matrix of a brass seal was found in the church-yard of Long-Newton, in the county of Durham:—"SIGILLUM WILELMI DE BROG;"

and on the inner circle, "G. I. R. E. NOMEN I. Abet." The device, a holy lamb and a cross. William De Broc appears as a witness to charters about the year 1300.—*Local Rec.*

1819.—South Gosforth chapel, near Newcastle, which was rebuilt about the year 1798, was considerably enlarged.—*Ibid.*

New Court Baptist chapel, Westgate street, Newcastle, was built this year.—*Local Papers.*



The Typographical Society of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, which owes its origin to the refined literary taste of the late John Trotter Brockett, was instituted this year, Mr. Brockett duly appreciating the many beautiful specimens of typography executed in that town, edited "A Short View of the Raigne of Henry the Third, King of England; presented to King James, 1627," and had it printed on the same description of paper that had been used in the splendid edition of Dugdale's Monasticon, and in the best style of the press of the late Mrs. Hodgson. He likewise printed, in a corresponding style, some other works, as also did Mr. William Garret, which being very favourably received, led to the publication, in 1818, of Mr. Brockett's "Hints on the Propriety of Establishing a Typographical Society in Newcastle-upon-Tyne." The circulation of those hints resulted in the formation of the Society, the publications of which are on a variety of subjects; they are not uniformly re-prints, but occasionally original compositions of individual members. They have been divided, to use the language of one of the members, into *Canonical* and *Deutero-Canonical* publications. The *Canonical* are from the Hodgson press, the *Deutero-canonical*, are the productions of other presses of the

town. The *canonists* are Mr. Adamson, Mr. Brockett, Mr. John Fenwick, Mr. G. T. Fox, Mr. W. Garret, Mr. Thos. Hodgson, John Murray, M. D., Mr. Rob. Roxby, The rev. H. Salvin, sir. Cuthbert Sharp, Mr. John Straker, Mr. John Sykes, Mr. W. G. Thompson, Mr. John Turner, and Mr. Rob. White. The *Deutero-canonists* are Mr. G. N. Clark, Mr. John Fenwick, Mr. William Garret, Mr. W. A. Mitchell, Mr. John Straker, Mr. John Sykes, and Mr. W. G. Thompson. The publications are generally for private distribution only; but occasionally some of them are offered for sale, and they are distinguished by the vignette of the member publishing, that at the head of this article was the vignette used by Mr. Brockett. They are very favourably noticed in Martyn's Catalogue of Privately Printed Works. Those by Mr. Adamson and Mr. Hodgson, are most beautiful specimens of the Typographic art, and reflect the highest credit on our local press. We should have added a catalogue, but we understand that a member of the society is engaged on an enlarged account of its publications.—*J. Fenwick's MS.*

1820 (Jan. 1).—The first number of a newspaper entitled "The Durham Chronicle, or General Northern Advertiser," was published in the city of Durham, by Mr. John Ambrose Williams. It is at present published by Mr. John Hardinge Veitch.—*Local Rec.*

January 3.—Died, at Wall's End, Mrs. Kenlish, aged 105 years. She retained all her faculties till within a few days of her death.—*Local Papers.*

January 6.—About eight o'clock in the evening, a dreadful explosion of gas, by which several persons were seriously injured and an infant killed, took place in Forth-street, Newcastle. During the greater part of that day, the family of Mr. Benjamin Slater, in front of whose house, in that street, one of the main gas pipes passed, but without having any communication with the house, had been greatly annoyed with the smell of gas, which was escaping from the pipe into the house. Information of this circumstance was communicated to the proper persons, at the gas-works, who promised to remedy the inconvenience next day, not conceiving any immediate danger. In the evening, however, as Mrs. Slater was sitting in the parlour conversing with a friend, she sent her daughter with a candle to the closet, when a most violent explosion of gas took place, by which the upper part of this house, and the whole of the back part of the one adjoining, were blown out and destroyed, and the houses otherwise much injured. Mrs. Slater's daughter was scorched most shockingly over all her body, and a young child was forced from Mrs. Slater's arms into the fire-place. Mrs. Slater was also much hurt. Mrs.

Fletcher, her friend, escaped unhurt. But more serious injury was sustained in the adjoining house, occupied by Mr. John Slater, who was that evening entertaining a party of friends. The part of the house where they were sitting was quite demolished, and they were so crushed among the ruins, that it was some time before they were extricated. Mrs. John Slater had both her ankles put out. Mrs. Debnam had also both her ankles put out, and her arm broken; and had the further misfortune of having her child, a baby of about five weeks old, which she was holding in her arms, unfortunately killed. Mr. Debnam also received some injury, as did Mr. John Slater, and some others. From the violence of the explosion, some tables and chairs were thrown across the street, and a window being blown quite out, was thrown to a great distance. Some persons passing were also hurt by the falling bricks, &c. At the assizes held in Newcastle in August 1821, Mr. Debnam brought an action against the gas company, and obtained £460 damages.—*Local Rec.*

1820 (Jan. 12).—About half-past nine o'clock at night an alarming fire broke out in the house occupied by Mrs. Lynn, in New Cross-street, Sunderland. The flames burst out with great violence, and apprehensions were entertained for the safety of the neighbouring houses, but by the speedy arrival of the engines, and the praiseworthy exertions of the inhabitants in supplying them with water, the fire was confined to the back part of the premises in which it commenced, and which it completely destroyed. It is melancholy to add, that Mrs. Lynn was herself unfortunately burnt to death.—*Local Papers.*

February 3.—The accession of his majesty George the Fourth to the throne of these realms was proclaimed in Newcastle. About two o'clock in the afternoon, Archibald Reed, esq., mayor, several of the aldermen, and other members of the corporation, attended by the general of the district, sir Andrew Bernard, and other military officers, after having drunk the health of his majesty, in the Guildhall, appeared on the Sandhill in front of that building, and there, in the presence of an immense assemblage of people, after a flourish of trumpets, the proclamation was read by Mr. James Sopwith, town-marshal. The reading of it was received with cheers, and immediately after, a royal salute was fired from the guns on the castle. The procession then moved forward, preceded by the band of the 6th dragoon guards, mounted, playing "*God save the King*;" these were followed by a party of free-porters bearing halberds, the serjeants at mace, town-marshal, &c., accompanied with a flag, on which was represented the arms of the town. Next came the sword and mace bearers, who were followed by the mayor, supported on his right by sir Andrew Bernard, and on his left by another officer. His worship was follow-

ed by the recorder, aldermen, and sheriff, together with many officers and several members of the common council and other gentlemen; the whole was closed by two troops of the 6th dragoon guards. When the procession arrived opposite to St. Nicholas' church it halted, and the proclamation was repeated. The procession again moved forward up the Middle street, to the White cross, and along Low Friar street, and Westgate street, to the castle, at both of which places the proclamation was again read. From the castle the procession returned by the head of the Side and Mosley street, to the Guildhall. During the day the bells of the churches rung several peals.—*Local Papers.*



BONDGATE TOWER, ALNWICK.

1820 (Feb. 5).—The king was proclaimed at Alnwick. The high sheriff, William Orde, of Nunnykirk, esq., arrived a little before one o'clock at the Swan inn, (where several gentlemen had assembled to attend him) and proceeded immediately to the Market-cross, preceded by a band of music, the under sheriff and bailiffs with white wands. He was accompanied by his grace the duke of Northumberland, and several of the magistrates and country gentlemen; the staff of the county militia also attended. After the proclamation was read, during which the people were uncovered, the populace joined the gentry in cheering, and his majesty's health was drunk amidst shouts of approbation, while the band played "*God save the King.*" The duke of Northumberland had ordered several barrels of ale and carts with bread and cheese, to be in the Market-place; the provisions and liquor were distributed to the people, while a double royal salute was

fired from the field-pieces at the castle, and the flag hoisted. The procession then returned to the Swan inn, and from thence accompanied his grace to his princely mansion, where a very handsome collation was served for such gentlemen as called. Upwards of two hundred of his grace's permanent workmen, and the children of their grace's schools, with the militia staff, being together above five hundred persons, had bread and cheese, and ale served out to them in the inner court of this ancient pile, where the duke and duchess set them the example of drinking his majesty's health, in which they all heartily joined. The high sheriff, as well as the duke, broke their glasses after drinking the king's health, according to the good old custom on such occasions, to prevent their ever being used again on a less important event. Proclamations were made at all the other towns in the district.—*Local Papers*.

1820 (Feb. 16).—The day of interment of the remains of his most gracious majesty George III. was observed in Newcastle with every mark of mourning and respect. At eight o'clock the flag on the castle was hoisted half-staff high, and continued so until the evening; the flags of the several ships in the harbour were also displayed half-mast high; the bells of the different churches were muffled, and rung mourning peals during the day. At the usual time on the morning there was service in the several churches and chapels, and appropriate sermons preached; the churches were hung with black. The soldiers, composing the garrison, consisting of some troops of the 6th dragoon guards, and parties of royal artillery, and of the 33rd and 40th foot, marched through the town to St. Nicholas' church in slow and solemn step, the band playing a very mournful air; this had a most impressive effect. The instruments of the band were hung with crape. The Newcastle lodge of free masons also attended divine service in St. Nicholas' church, but without their insignia. The soldiers returned from church without music. From one o'clock till two, minute guns were fired from the castle, and between each gun the great bell of St. Nicholas gave a solemn toll. This was repeated between four and five o'clock in the evening. The shops were all shut during the day, and business generally suspended. The day was observed in a similarly mournful manner at all the neighbouring towns and many of the villages. George III. died January 29th, 1820, in the 82nd year of his age, and his son George IV. was proclaimed in London on the 31st of January.—*Ibid*.

March 11.—Died, at Salutation, near Darlington, Mr. Benjamin Garnett, in his 105th year. He never experienced one day's illness, and walked about till a few hours before his death, and had the use of his faculties to the last.—*Ibid*.

1820 (March 24).—This being the day appointed for the Northumberland and Newcastle cavalry, commanded by lieutenant-colonel Brandling, to receive their colours, the corps, which was then on permanent duty, preceded by the band of the 6th dragoon guards, marched to the town-moor, and being formed on three sides of a square, fronting the grand stand, Mrs. Brandling, supported by Mrs. Bell and Mrs. Brown (Mrs. Dixon Dixon), in their joint names presented the standards intended for the three squadrons, observing, “that when they requested the corps to allow them the high honour of presenting them with their standards, they felt the fullest conviction, that they entrusted them to those, who, in every situation, would defend them like Englishmen;” to which the colonel replied in a speech fraught with loyalty. The standards were then delivered to the troops, whose loud cheers, accompanied by a salute fired by the royal artillery, had a grand and impressive effect.—*Local Papers*.

In the early part of this year, C. W. Bigge, esq., of Linden house, munificently contributed to the comfort, convenience, and elegance of Longhorsley church, by building a new vestry, repairing the chancel, and enlarging the arch between the church and chancel, which before was so contracted as literally to divide them into two separate apartments; he also made an elegant altar-table and rails, from a part of an immense oak tree, dug out of a moss in his estate, where it must have lain for an unknown series of ages.—*Hist. of Northd.*

April 28.—Died, at Langley, in Kent, her grace the duchess dowager of Northumberland, in her 67th year. May 10th, her grace's remains were interred in the same vault in St. Nicholas' chapel, in Westminster abbey, in which those of the late duke were deposited. There were upwards of one hundred private carriages in the procession, besides mourning coaches.—*Local Papers*.

April 28.—An explosion took place in Jarrow colliery, by which event two persons lost their lives.—*Ibid.*

May 4.—Died, at Heathery Burn, near Hexham, Mrs. Margaret Lee, aged 107 years.—*Ibid.*

May 5.—The first stone of a new chapel in the Wesleyan Methodist connection, was laid in Northumberland-street, Newcastle. The rev. Edmund Grindrod delivered a short address to a respectable audience. He stated, that the first stone of the contiguous chapel (Orphan house), for which this was intended as an enlarged substitute, was laid by the rev. John Wesley, on the 20th of December, 1742, and that for many years past it had been much too small to accommodate the stated hearers. Friday, February 23rd, 1821, this elegant chapel was first opened for divine worship, when eloquent and powerful sermons were preached by the rev. Messrs. Newton, Ather-

ton, and Wood, to crowded audiences. The register of births and baptisms 1555 entries, extend from 1788 to 1837. Very neat houses were soon after built on each side of the opening which leads from Northumberland-street to the chapel, and which is called Brunswick-place.—*Local Papers. Rep. of Parl. Com., &c.*

1820 (May 17).—A thunder storm passed over Newcastle; a concussion took place directly over the centre of the town about one o'clock, and instantly a mass of fire fell with a stunning report, as though a bomb had burst near the ear. The lightning struck the chimney of a house at the foot of the Side, which it scattered partly into the street and partly through the roof, providentially without injuring any person. The lightning also struck the spindle at the mast-head of a sloop, near White-hill point, on the river Tyne, shivered the mast from end to end, burnt one of the sails to tinder in an instant, and raised the deck from the beams four or five inches. A hole was made in the mast, as if an eighteen pounder had gone into it.—*Ibid.*

May 26.—Died in All Saints' poor-house, Newcastle, Thomas Matfin, aged 77 years. When a boy, and in St. John's charity school, he was supposed to have died. His school-fellows, according to the then custom, attended to sing at his funeral. On entering the church porch their voices reverberated so shrilly, as to arouse him from his lethargy, and he turned on his side to listen. The under-bearers, who were just setting the coffin upon the bier, felt the motion, and in a fright informed the clergyman, who ordered the lid to be unscrewed. On perceiving that life had returned, he was immediately taken home to his aunt's house in Low Friar-street, where he was wrapped in a blanket, and having drank a little of some invigorating cordial, was put to bed, and soon recovered. He afterwards became a keelman, and being in his old age, turned out of the keelmen's hospital for irregular conduct, he became an inmate of All Saint's poor-house, where he died as above stated, and was interred at All Saints' church by the rev. Robert Green, on the 28th of May.—*Local Rec.*

June 20.—Died, at Slaley, in Northumberland, Mrs. Mary Carr, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers.*

June 22.—The foundation of a new bridge at Chester-le-street was laid in the presence of a great number of the inhabitants. On taking down part of the old bridge, an old copper coin, supposed to be of James I., was found amongst the rubbish. February 22nd, 1821, this bridge was opened for public carriages, when the workmen were regaled on the bridge at the charge of earl Grey. The inscription of "Grey's Arch, November 17th, 1820," was cut on the stone over the arch, being the day his lordship was drawn through the town by the

inhabitants, as he was returning from London from the defence of her majesty queen Caroline.—*Local Papers*.

1820 (June).—This month, the workmen digging in the streets at North Shields, to lay gas pipes in a place called the Bull ring, came to a large flat square stone, in which, on being turned over, were found, greatly corroded, the iron bolt and ring to which bulls had been made fast, when baited there in old times. The town was first lighted with gas, on October 19th this year—*Ibid*.



IN THE LOW STREET, NORTH SHIELDS.

July 8.—The bill for lighting, cleansing, and improving the town of Stockton-upon-Tees, received the royal assent. November 15th, 1822, the town was first lighted with gas, on which occasion there was a public dinner, and the bells were rung during the lighting of the lamps.—*Ibid*.

July 19.—The chain bridge across the river Tweed, near Paxton Ford, about six miles above Berwick, was opened to the public. Captain S. Brown, R. N., the inventor, in his tandem, first, followed by twelve double horse carts, laden with stones, and Mr. Molle, of Molle Mains, in his carriage, passed and returned along the bridge. The stability of the structure being tried, the right hon. the earl of Home, and the commissioners of the high roads, preceded by the bands of the Berwickshire and Northumberland militias, playing

"God save the King," then passed along it. The earl of Home and a numerous party of gentlemen sat down to a most excellent dinner, prepared in a tent, by Mr. Paulin, of Horndean, and the day was spent in the utmost harmony. Several thousands of people were present at the opening. The suspension arch is forty-five feet, and is sufficient to allow two carts to pass, and a foot-path on each side. The extreme length of the suspended chains from the point of junction, on each side of the river Tweed, is five hundred and ninety feet; from the stone abutments, four hundred and thirty-two feet; and the height above the surface of the river is twenty-seven feet. The weight of the chains, platform, &c. is about one hundred and sixty tons; but the bridge is calculated to support a weight of three hundred and sixty tons,—a greater weight, in all probability, than it will ever be subjected to. This curious and elegant structure only cost £5,000. It is called the Union Bridge, and was commenced building on the 19th of July, 1819.—*Local Papers*.

1820 (July 27).—Died, at Darlington, Jane Rutherford, aged 100 years.—*Ibid*.

September 9.—Died, at Great Aycliffe, Durham, Ann Simpson, aged 101 years.—*Ibid*.

October 31.—As Arthur Marlham, of Greatham, was shrimping on the sand islands, in the river Tees, he was overtaken by the tide in the dusk of the evening. He did not see his danger till he was nearly surrounded by the water, and knowing there was no possibility of escape, he began to consider how he could longest preserve himself from being carried away by the tide. A sand bank for a few yards was all the uncovered space left him: he selected the highest spot, on which he placed his *leap* (a wicker basket carried on the shoulder in shrimping), and fixed his shrimping-pole, with the net downwards, to give the pole as sure a purchase as he could, he mounted his basket, and held by the pole. The tide soon covered his feet, and gradually flowed as high as his middle. After three hours, he thought he saw the water begin to fall; but in a few minutes, a breeze sprung up, and the tide flowed again six or seven inches. The tide, however, was falling, and he remained on his sand-bank till he was relieved by the fishing boats in the morning. His situation in the river was two miles from the Durham coast, and three from Yorkshire, in the midst of the Tees estuary, with the wide ocean full in front at the river mouth. He said it was an awful sight to *look over the waters*; but his presence of mind and his trust in providence never forsook him.—*Surtees*.

November 20.—Newcastle and Gateshead were brilliantly illuminated, as a testimony of joy on the abandonment of the bill against

her majesty queen Caroline, consort of George IV. About seven o'clock in the evening the lighting commenced, and a number of devices and transparencies were exhibited in various parts of the town. The smaller mottoes in general were—"Long live Queen Caroline;" "Innocence Triumphant;" "Earl Grey for Ever," &c., &c. The house of Mr. Joseph Price, in Gateshead, was one entire blaze of lamps of various tints, and of the most brilliant lustre. Illuminations and other rejoicings were very general throughout the counties of Durham and Northumberland. August 7th, 1821, her majesty died at Hammersmith, after an illness of eight days.—*Local Papers.*



1820 (Dec).—This month, immediately above the excavation of the lime-stone at Carley-hill quarry, which is situated about a quarter of a mile west of Fulwell-hill, in the parish of Monkwearmouth, and about two hundred yards west of Hill-house, the residence of Mr. Wake, senior, whilst removing the surplus soil, Thomas Dobson, quarryman, found a Roman figure, which appeared to be a Lar. There were found at the same time, several portions of human bones, and a quantity of common rock limpet shells, embedded in lime-stone rubbish and surface soil. It is worthy of remark, that several excavations have been discovered in the solid lime-stone rock at Carley-hill (similar to stone coffins) containing human bones.—*Arch. Æliana.*

This year, Mrs. Mary Pease, widow of Mr. Joseph Pease, of Darlington, woollen manufacturer, erected four alms-houses in Darlington, for the residence of four poor widows of the age of fifty years at least, and of good moral character and reputation, to be nominated by the Society of Friends.—*Local Papers.*

This year, on ploughing a field called the Back Yards, situated to

the west of the village of Dinnington, adjoining Prestwick Carr, Northumberland, the foundation of a building, and several human bones, and some skulls with the teeth perfect in the jaw bones, were discovered about a yard below the surface of the earth. Numerous other stones and *fire-bricks* were also found, and a regular pavement of whinstones to some extent. Two stones, which had been dressed, when joined together formed the figure of an octagon, and were evidently the remains of a gothic pillar. A stone was also found, in the shape of a ball, with a perforation in the centre, similar to such as were anciently used on the tops of pillars, at the entrance gate of mansion houses, or other buildings. On the southern boundary of this field are yet to be seen, the foundation of a wall.—*Maddison's Prestwick Carr.*

1820.—The register of births and baptisms of Zion chapel, (Independent) Westgate-street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, extend from 1821 to 1829.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

The great northern gateway which stood across Sadler-street, in the city of Durham, was this year taken down.—*Surtees.*

This year and the following, the Register office in the Palace-green, in the city of Durham, was built by subscription on the site of the old county courts.—*Ibid.*

1821 (Jan. 2).—Early on the morning, John Wilson, a pitman, aged 64 years, fell down the shaft of Sheriff-hill colliery, near Gateshead, in the dark, but fortunately caught hold of the rope with his left hand, at the depth of about eighty feet; although it lacerated his hand by the friction, he was able to stop his descent and suspend himself, until his fellow-workmen heard his cries, and lowered down a corf by another rope, which took above a quarter of an hour, when providentially he got into it and was drawn up safely. Had he descended a few fathoms lower, he would have passed the end of the rope, and must have been killed by a fall of four hundred and fifty feet.—*Local Rec.*

January 5.—When some workmen were removing rubbish on the premises of Mr. Fair, of Hide-hill, Berwick, cabinet-maker, they found a small wooden box, containing eighteen gold pieces of Henry VIII., Mary, and Elizabeth; and also twenty silver coins of Elizabeth. The whole in good preservation. The gold coins weighed two and a half ounces, and the silver coins, two ounces. The workmen immediately sold their prize to a jeweller, and regaled themselves with the proceeds.—*Local Papers.*

January 7.—Died, at Dam-house, near Kirkley, Mrs. Margaret Rowland, in her 101st year.—*Ibid.*

January 19.—Died, at West Thriston, in Northumberland, aged 74

years, John Marshall, better known by the name of "*Blind Johnny*." He lost his sight by the small-pox, when four years of age, but the perfection in which he possessed the sense of hearing, compensated in a great measure for the loss. He worked occasionally at the anvil and the loom, but for a considerable time before his death, his main dependance for support was on his skill in playing on the violin. So intimately was he acquainted with the surrounding country, that he could readily find any part of it without a guide; indeed, he sometimes acted as a guide to strangers.—*Local Papers*.

1821 (Feb. 15).—The chapel belonging to the establishment, at Hylton-ferry, near Sunderland, erected and endowed at the sole expense of T. J. Maling, esq., captain R. N., was consecrated by the bishop of St David's.—*Ibid*.

Same day, died, at the Westgate, Newcastle, aged 96 years, Ann Nichol, formerly of Horsley, and one of the eldest members of the Methodist society in this district. When the Orphan-house, in Northumberland-street, was built in 1742, she sold a piece of cloth to enable her to contribute towards its erection; and it was remarkable that the Orphan-house was closed as a place of divine worship on the day of her interment.—*Ibid*.

February 19.—Died, at the North-shore, near Newcastle, Elizabeth Dryden, aged 107 years.—*Ibid*.

March 6.—Died, at Cullercoats, Mrs. Isabella Armstrong, widow, aged 103 years.—*Ibid*.



OLD HOUSE AT CULLERCOATS (1841).

Said to have been the Sea-side residence of a Duchess of Somerset.

March 9.—The brewery at Monkseaton, near North Shields, was discovered to be on fire, and before it was got under, the drying kiln

was totally destroyed, with about sixty bolls of malt.—*Local Papers.*

1821 (March 20).—A newly-erected steam mill, for grinding corn at Stockton, belonging to Mr. C. Cooke, was discovered to be on fire, and the whole of the building, except the engine-house, together with a quantity of corn and flour, was consumed.—*Ibid.*

March 23.—Died, at South Shields, Hannah Marshall, aged 104 years.—*Ibid.*

March 28.—Died, at his house in Portman-place, London, in the 64th year of his age, Michael Bryan, esq., a native of Newcastle. Mr. Bryan was an ingenious connoisseur in the fine arts, who also distinguished himself as an author. He was at one time a picture dealer, but though possessed of undoubted skill and judgment as to the merits of the productions of ancient and modern painters, he was so unfortunate in some of his speculations as to be obliged to relinquish that pursuit. His taste and knowledge, however, were so highly appreciated, that his opinion was often sought, and many large sums have been expended in works of art through his recommendation. Retiring from active life, he engaged in the composition of a "Biographical and Critical Dictionary of Painters and Engravers," which was commenced in 1813, and published in 1816, in 2 vols. 4to. This work is more copious and accurate than that of Pilkington, and many of the original sketches do much credit to the writer. Mr. Bryan married the sister of the earl of Shrewsbury.—*Local Rec.*

March 28.—Died, at Widdrington, in Northumberland, aged 68 years, Mr. Robert Reed. Mr. Reed resided at Widdrington, but his chief employment was in travelling through the adjoining country in the capacity of a pedlar and a bee-master, and he is still well remembered in all the farm-houses in the neighbourhood, as an ingenious and useful man, and "a good honest crack." He obtained a prize from the Society of Arts and Commerce, for the management of bees. Part of his stock of bees, which was at times very large, was kept at Widdrington, the rest dispersed among the farmers and cottagers in the vicinity; and his advice about the management of apiaries was constantly solicited and freely given through the circuit in which he travelled. He frequently exhibited in the markets at Alnwick, Morpeth, and other places, a swarm of bees, hanging from his hand.—*Newc. Cour.*

This month, the lower part of the horn of a deer, of extraordinary size, was dug up in the grounds at Campville, South Preston, near Tynemouth. Mr. Fenwick, the proprietor, had ordered a well to be filled up, first removing the walling stones. Considerably in the earth, near the stones, the remains of this large antler were found, in the north-east angle of the Roman camp, called in Brand, "*Blake*

Chesters," and referred to by Camden in one of his oblong squares (*Blake Chesters* being the principal) running in a zigzag direction from *Segedunum* (Wallsend) to Tynemouth. Sacrifices of wild animals to the Gods were frequently made in these stations; and some faint tradition yet remains of a temple to Diana, or some heathen Deity, having stood in Middle Chirton, the western side of this camp or chain of forts. The head of an ancient spear had been dug up in the same site.—*Mackenzie's Northd.*

1821 (April 4).—The foundation stone of a new subscription library was laid on the site of the old gaol, in the city of Durham, on which occasion Dr. Fenwick delivered a suitable address to the company assembled.—*Local Papers.*

April 25.—The foundation stone of a Baptist chapel was laid in Barrington-street, South Shields.—*Ibid.*

May 16.—The building a stone bridge, at the expense of the duke of Northumberland, over the river Alne, near Alnwick abbey, was begun. This was a great public accommodation, as the ford there was often very dangerous to pass.—*Ibid.*

May 23.—The foundations of a new chapel, to be built by subscription, began to be dug out at Nether Heworth, in the county of Durham, the first stone of which, inclosing an appropriate inscription on copper, was laid on the following day. This chapel was opened for divine worship on the 5th of May, 1822. On the 22th of September, 1808, half an acre which had been added to this chapel-yard, was consecrated by the lord bishop of Durham.—*Ibid.*



HEWORTH OLD CHAPEL.

June 2.—About two o'clock in the morning, a fire broke out in the barn, thrashing-machine, and straw-house, belonging to John Russell, esq., of Heworth, and before the progress of the flames could be stopped, the machinery, roofs, and interior of the houses were consumed.—*Ibid*

1821 (June 16).—The London mail proceeding southward was overturned upon Sunderland-bridge, which crosses the Wear on the great north road, three miles south from Durham, owing it should seem to the driver making too wide a turn on entering the bridge to avoid a groom who was taking the turn at the same time on horseback. Two passengers, Mr. Thomas Donaldson, a grazier in Perthshire, and Mr. Samuel Whitaker, of Bingley, builder, were precipitated from the roof of the coach over the parapet-wall on the upper side of the bridge, a depth of upwards of twenty-five feet, and were dashed against the frame-work of one of the buttresses, which, as the river was low, was left dry. Mr. Donaldson was killed on the spot, and Mr. Whitaker only survived four hours. The guard was thrown from his seat against the battlements, but fell to the inside; and the driver was thrown between the horses and the wall. Mr. Chater, of Newcastle, solicitor, who was on the box, escaped by holding on; the inside passengers received no injury. The remains of both the unfortunate sufferers were interred in Brancepath church-yard on the 23rd, attended by a large concourse of people. James Auld, the driver of the mail, was found guilty of manslaughter at the August assizes, and sentenced to nine months' imprisonment, but was liberated in February 1822.—*Surtees*.

July 1.—Died, at the Moor-houses, in Northumberland, Ann Rule, single-woman, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers*.

July 7.—John, lord Eldon, lord high chancellor of England, was created an earl by the stile of viscount Encombe and earl of Eldon.—*Ibid.*

July 9.—An explosion took place in Rainton North Pit, when one man lost his life.—*Ibid.*

Same day, an explosion took place in Coxlodge colliery, by which one man lost his life.—*Ibid.*

July 10.—During the preparations in Newcastle, for the celebration of the coronation, the workmen, on breaking the pavement on the Sandhill, for a foundation for the temporary wine pant, discovered a large stone with an iron ring, to which formerly bulls had been fastened for that cruel torture, bull-baiting.—*Ibid.*

July 12.—The workmen employed in converting Gunner-tower (part of the town's wall, Newcastle), near the Forth-lane, into a hall, for the incorporated company of slaters and tylers, found a large quantity of shillings and sixpences of the coinage of Edward I.—*Ibid.*

July 15.—Died, Mr. William Cant, master of the Blue Bell, head of the Side, Newcastle, aged 70 years, formerly piper to the Northumberland militia. He was an excellent performer on the violin and

the Northumberland pipes, and, like his great predecessors on the latter instrument, Turnbull, Gilley, old Lamshaw, and Peacock, he kept up the ancient tunes, with all their charming lilt and pauses, unspoiled by the modern improvers of music, with their "idiot notes impertinently long." He played "his native wood notes wild," such as pleased the ears of the yeomanry of old at Otterburn, Hedgeley Moor, and Floddon Field, and

"When e'er his pipe did silence break,

You'd thought the instrument would speak."—*Local Rec.*

1821 (July 19).—Being the day of the coronation of his majesty George IV., was observed throughout the counties of Northumberland and Durham with great rejoicings. In the city of Durham, a small ox, the gift of lord Stuart (now marquis of Londonderry), was roasted at the head of Old Elvet. It was soon cut in pieces, which, together with a quantity of bread, were thrown indiscriminately to the public; but no sooner was this done, than the populace immediately commenced pelting, with it, those on the platform, so that his lordship's generosity on this occasion was literally thrown away. Several barrels of ale were also given away, which added considerably to the tumult and confusion. At North Shields a quantity of meat and bread was distributed to the public in a manner highly commendable. Several tables were set out in the Market-place, and a loaf of bread, and two pounds of meat on a cabbage leaf, with fourpence to purchase ale, were given to such poor persons who had procured tickets for them. At Newcastle, extraordinary preparations had been made for the celebration of this event. The large fire-places, or rather double furnaces, between which the two oxen intended for public distribution were to be roasted, the immense spits, cranes, scaffolding, &c., were completed in the early part of the week, and became objects of curious inspection; one was placed in the centre of the Spital—the other, at the foot of the Old Flesh Market; near each of them was a wooden pant or fountain, to run beer. In the centre of the Sandhill was another temporary, but larger fountain, to run wine. About two o'clock on the morning, the fires were lighted, and the roasting of the oxen commenced, and from that hour the streets became crowded with people. Numbers had arrived from the country the evening before, but on Thursday morning, the day being auspiciously fine, they poured into the town by thousands in all sorts of vehicles. Never did the streets of Newcastle exhibit such a congregated mass. At six o'clock on the morning the guns from the castle announced, by a royal salute, that the rejoicings had commenced; the flag was hoisted, the ships displayed their colours, and the bells of the several churches rang their merry peals. About nine o'clock all was anxious expectation to

witness the boat race from Walker's quay to Tyne bridge, for the following prizes, which had been announced a few days previous by bills, viz:—For the first boat six sovereigns; second boat three ditto; third boat two ditto; and the fourth boat one ditto, given by the corporation; in addition to which, the Trinity-house was to present the first boat with an elegant blue silk flag, on which was gilt a crown and suitable inscription. This flag was the great object of ambition to the competitors, and for which thirteen boats had entered. In consequence of a dispute, the prizes were not adjudged until the competitors again tried their skill on August 1st (the anniversary of the battle of the Nile), when the flag was won by the Laurel Leaf, belonging to Stella. At half-past nine o'clock, the mayor, recorder, aldermen, sheriff, and common council, met, and voted an address to his majesty; after which, the mayor, George Forster, esq., was invested with a gold chain and medallion, which had been voted at a former common council, and which was to be worn by all future chief magistrates of that town. At half-past ten o'clock, the mayor and corporation, preceded by a band of music, and followed by a number of gentlemen, walked in procession to St. Nicholas' church, where an appropriate sermon was preached by the rev. John Smith, M.A., vicar, from 1st Kings, 1st chap. 39th verse. Before the return of the magistracy, &c. from church, immense crowds had assembled at the places which were to be the scenes of expected festivity, particularly the Sandhill, in the centre of which stood the wine pant which was a neat erection of wood, twelve feet high, painted to resemble stone, and surmounted by a eupola, copper bronze, on the top of which, was a full sized imperial crown, encircling a cap of state of crimson velvet, turned up with ermine. At the bottom of the roof was a ledge, below which was "G. IIII. R.," in gilt letters, and beneath this was a very neat painting of the arms of the town. On the return of the magistrates, &c., to the Sandhill, it was found utterly impossible to approach the pant, they therefore proceeded to the Town court, when having come forward to the great window, they drank his majesty's health, which was followed by a royal salute from the guns on the castle, and repeated peals of bells from the churches. At the same moment the pant began to run wine, when an almost indescribable scene of uproarious confusion commenced. During the struggles to obtain a part of the wine, a man got upon the tub, and seizing the spout, clung to it until his clothes were literally torn from his body.* After running upwards of an hour, the wine ceased to

* Mr. Parker, the artist, of Newcastle, painted a picture of this ludicrous scene. After being exhibited in London, it was purchased by the corporation of Newcastle, for the purpose of decorating the walls of the Mansion-house.

flow, when, having nothing to attract their attention, the mob began to throw about the pots, soaked hats, caps, &c., to the no small annoyance of the peaceably inclined inhabitants. The top of the court was crowded with people, as was every window on the Sandhill. Many houses had a kind of gallery erected on their tops with seats for the accommodation of ladies and gentlemen. The pant was totally torn down, and a great part of it carried away by the mob. During the time of the exhibition on the Sandhill, the ox at the bottom of the Old Flesh Market was taken from the fire, by means of a crane, to a stage erected for the purpose, and four butchers ascended the platform to cut it in pieces for distribution. As they cut the pieces, they threw them amongst the crowd, who, in return, pelted the butchers with the pieces of meat and bones, until they drove them from the stage. The remains of the ox were then taken possession of, and soon distributed; and the chain of the crane having been broken in an attempt to pull the stage up with it, it was fastened to part of the skeleton of the animal, which was then dragged through the streets to the Sandhill. The furnace was then partly pulled to pieces; and fragments of meat, and even brick bats, began to fly in all directions, many persons receiving bruises. The procession of mail coaches passing at the time, was shamefully pelted, and one of the men much hurt. The distribution of the ox at the Spital was attended with similar circumstances; the butchers, &c., were speedily driven from the stage, and the skeleton taken possession of and dragged to the Sandhill. The ale kept running from the pants in the Old Flesh Market and the Spital till near three o'clock, when the pants were demolished. By this time the crowd was attracted to the town-moor to witness the race for the gold cup, and the streets were soon quiet. This was a fortunate circumstance, for had there been no other object, it is most probable that the peace of the town would not have been so soon restored. As it was, on their return from the town-moor, the mob assailed the remains of the temporary erections in the Flesh Market and the Spital, and carried off the planks and all the iron in their power. At ten o'clock, further demolition was stopped by the police. There was a pant ran beer in the Milk Market, Sandgate, which was chiefly occupied by women and children. The inmates of the corporation hospitals received five shillings each from that body, and five shillings more from the members for the town. The prisoners in the gaol and house of correction received five shillings each. The children of the endowed charity schools of the four parishes were provided with a substantial dinner, as were the inmates of the poor houses. There were grand dinners at the Mansion-house and Trinity-house. At the Assembly-rooms was a ball; and the pit and gallery

of the Theatre were opened to the free burgesses, gratis, on the invitation of the mayor by a bill. In the afternoon there was a grand military review on the town-moor. In the evening sir Robert Shafto Hawks had a very tasteful illumination on the outside of his house in Clavering-place, which was repeated the following evening. At Gateshead the rejoicings commenced at six o'clock in the morning, by the bells ringing a merry peal, which, with the firing of guns at the factory of Messrs. Hawks, continued at intervals. At nine o'clock the children of St. Edmund's chapel school, to the number of 340, assembled in the rectory garden, and received each a sixpence of the new coinage, a glass of wine, and a cake, and a copy of our national anthem, "God save the King," which they sung with enthusiasm. The money was subscribed by the members of the school committee. A subscription was entered into by the inhabitants of Gateshead; which was distributed among the poor, and a plentiful dinner given to the inmates of the poor-house. Much private charity was dispensed.

Local Rec.



THE WINE PANT.

CHAPTER X.



ABOUT eleven o'clock on the forenoon of Thursday the 26th of July, 1821, the soap manufactory belonging to Anthony Clapham and Co., at the Ouseburn, near Newcastle, was discovered to be on fire, and in a few minutes the flames blazed with great fury, and threatened the most tremendous consequences. The assistance of the workmen from the neighbouring manufactories was immediately volunteered, by whose exertions, with the aid of the fire engines, the destructive element was in a short time overcome. It originated in, and was confined to, that part of the building exclusively appropriated to the preparation of alkalis, the timbers and flooring of which were exceedingly dry, from the heat of the process, and the long continued dryness of the weather.—*Local Papers.*

August 9.—About one o'clock on the morning, a destructive fire broke out in that part of the premises occupied by the Northumberland Glass Company, which fronted the Close, Newcastle; and such was the violence of the flames, and the rapidity with which they spread, that by two o'clock the greater part of the premises was in a complete blaze, and, in defiance of all efforts, that very extensive establishment, with the warehouses, and the greater part of the superb stock, fell a prey to the flames. The only part left standing was the cone, containing the furnace, adjoining the river Tyne. Some adjoining dwelling-houses, inhabited by labouring people, were involved in the calamity, several families having nearly lost their all. Great fears were entertained for the safety of the soap manufactory (which at one time was on fire), belonging to Messrs. Doubleday and Co., adjoining to the Glass-house on the west side, but a strong west wind carried the flames in an opposite direction. The Mansion-house

and Messrs. Doubleday and Co.'s counting-house being on the east side, and nearly adjoining the Glass-house, were in imminent danger from the flames and heavy showers of sparks which were carried to them by the wind. And, to add to the danger, several hundreds of barrels of rosin were lying in an open yard close to the Mansion-house; on them the sparks fell thick and fast, but fortunately they did not take fire, though, to prevent such a catastrophe, men were placed on the watch with buckets of water, and many of the casks were removed into the street. By great exertions the fire was confined to the Glass-house premises, and about half-past five o'clock was got nearly under, though some of the ruins continued to burn during the day.—*Local Papers*.

1821 (Sep. 10).—John Wilkinson and William Surtees Hetherington, for robbing Mr. William Nesbit, farmer, of Long Benton, on Benton Bank, on his return from Newcastle in the evening of the preceding 7th of April, were executed at Morpeth, pursuant to their sentence. They were taken from the gaol to the place of execution in a post-chaise, preceded by a band of singers. On their arrival at the fatal spot (a little below the east end of the town), they ascended the scaffold with firmness, when they joined in prayer with the clergyman, and seemed very penitent. They were then launched into eternity, and, after hanging the usual time, their bodies were given to their friends.—*Ibid*.

September 28.—Died, at South Shields, aged 70 years, William Wouldhave, many years clerk of St. Hilda's chapel in that town. Mr. Wouldhave claimed to be the original inventor of the Life Boat, having in 1789, presented a model to the committee appointed for the purpose of constructing a boat calculated to brave the dangers of the sea, particularly broken water. His model was of tin (copper was recommended for the boat), rendered buoyant by cork, and incapable of being upset. For this ingenious model he received a guinea! Wouldhave was a native of North Shields, where he served his apprenticeship to a painter. He was distinguished for his fertility of invention and eccentricity of manners; but the versatility of his mind prevented him from rising in the world. Gay and careless, he cared not for the morrow. When some of his friends blamed him for leaving his model of the Life-boat at the Law House, when the committee seemed resolved not to adjudge him the reward, he replied, "Never mind, never mind; I know they have sense enough to adopt the good properties of my model; and though I am poor, if they refuse to give me the reward, I shall still have the satisfaction of being instrumental in saving the lives of some of my fellow creatures." Indeed he never thought of claiming any other reward. As honest as

he was poor, and almost as communicative as he was ingenious, he contented himself with the idea of being allowed to be the inventor by all the unprejudiced inhabitants of Shields. The idea of the peculiar construction he adopted as his model, was suggested to him, as he stated to a friend, by the circumstance of a woman at the Field-House Well, asking him to assist her to put a skeel of water on her head. She had a piece of a broken wooden dish floating on the water, which he observed floated with the points upwards. He turned it over several times and remarked that it always righted itself. Like Archimedes he cried out "I have found it." The honours and rewards, however, were lavished upon another, and Wouldhave died poor and neglected.—*G. Pringle's MS. Mackenzie and Ross' Dur. &c.*

1821 (September 28).—Died, in the Dog Bank, Newcastle, Barbara Humble, in her 101st year.—*Local Papers.*

September.—The Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle, received from Thomas Coates, esq., of Haydon-bridge, in Northumberland, who had returned overland from India, the valuable present of a very fine Egyptian mummy, in perfect preservation, and of great beauty. During a visit which Mr. C. paid to Gournou, the burial-place of ancient Thebes, in Upper Egypt, the mummy was dug from its sepulchre by an old Arab. Of him he procured it, and brought it to England. When received, it was in the original case or coffin, on the lid of which is carved a very beautiful female face.—*Ibid.*

September.—This month, the lord bishop of Durham (Barrington) presented an elegant portrait of himself to the Newcastle Infirmary. It is placed at the east end of the hall of that institution, between the portraits of bishop Butler and bishop Benson. The west end is decorated with the portraits of sir Walter Blackett, bart., by Reynolds; Matthew Ridley, esq., by Webb; and William Ingham, esq., by Nicholson.—*Ibid.*

October 1.—The Clergy Jubilee school, on the east side of the Carlol croft, Newcastle, which was erected in commemoration of the bishop of Durham attaining the fiftieth year of his prelacy, was opened for instruction, and a number of scholars admitted. The rev. Mr. Vicar, rev. Mr. Moises, rev. Mr. Parkin, and the rev. Mr. Griffith, attended to take the admissions; and the children being all neatly attired, and accompanied by their parents, the sight was truly gratifying. The funds not being sufficient to carry the purpose of the subscribers into full effect, the girls and boys belonging to the old-established Free schools of St. Nicholas' parish were removed to the new school, and the whole are now taught on Dr. Bell's plan, by one master and mistress.—*Ibid.*

October 17.—The foundation stone of a New Scotch Church for

the congregation of the rev. John Smellie, was laid in a suitable piece of ground, at the western extremity of Northumberland-court, to front into Blackett street. May 17th, it was opened for divine service, when an impressive sermon was delivered by the rev. Dr. Hodgson, of Blantyre, in Scotland. As this chapel was not in line with Blackett street, the original brick front was taken down in the year 1828, and a stone front with pinnacles erected to line with the street.—*Local Rec.*

1821 (Oct. 18).—Lambton park races were first established by John George Lambton, esq., (late lord Durham), at his seat near Chester-le-street.—*Local Papers.*

October 19.—A serious accident happened at Nesham's colliery, at Newbottle, on the river Wear. One of the brattices erected to close up an old working, having been broken into to obtain more air, a current of choke-damp issued from the perforation, which proved fatal to six of the workmen.—*Ibid.*

October 23.—A dreadful explosion took place in Wallsend colliery (Russell's), by which fifty-two men lost their lives. The explosion shook the ground like an earthquake, and made the furniture dance in the surrounding houses. This alarming the neighbourhood, the friends and relatives hurried to the spot, when a heart-rending scene of distress ensued. The greatest exertions were instantly made by Mr. Buddle, the viewer, who as soon as it was practicable, descended with his assistants, when a most melancholy scene presented itself. At the time of the explosion there were fifty-six men in the pit, of which number four only survived. The bodies of the deceased were most dreadfully scorched, and many of them most strangely distorted. Forty-six of the bodies were buried at Wallsend, fourteen of whom, being relations, were buried in one grave; some of the remainder were buried at the Ballast hills, and some at Wallsend old church, amidst sorrowing spectators.—*Ibid.*

October 23.—An explosion took place in Felling colliery, by which six human beings were deprived of existence.—*Ibid.*

November 30.—At night, a tremendous gale commenced at Newcastle and its neighbourhood, which committed great ravages. About three o'clock on the following morning, the chimney of a house in Johnson's clare, in Sandgate, Newcastle, fell through the roof, and a poor old widow, named Elizabeth Robson, 86 years of age, was killed in her bed, by the end of a broken beam falling on her neck. A little boy, her grandson, who lay in the same bed, was happily rescued without injury. Great damage was done in the lower part of the town, as appeared by the quantities of broken bricks and tiles that were lying about the streets and lanes in every direction. One of the

wands of St. Ann's mill was broken, and the paling of the miller's garden thrown down. The walls of two new houses building in Bridge-street, opposite Higham-place, were blown down, a great part of which fell inwards upon the joists which were broken to pieces, and the whole exhibited a heap of ruins. In the garden of Hugh Harrison, esq., near Chimney mills, several yards of wall, with rails on the



CHIMNEY MILLS, FROM THE TOWN MOOR, NEWCASTLE.

top, were blown over. The Methodist chapel at Kenton, which was used as a school, had the roof blown off, and two of the windows blown in. In Gateshead, part of the front of a house fell into the street with great violence. A stack of chimnies fell and broke through the roof of Mrs. Ludlow's house, in the Back-lane, and lodged in the garret, which was fortunately boarded, or the Misses Ludlow, who slept in the room beneath, would probably have been killed. A window in Mr. Price's glass manufactory, fronting the river, was blown in entirely, and forced to the further end of the apartment. By the violence of the hurricane much other damage was done.—*Local Papers*.

1821 (Dec. 4).—At a numerous meeting of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle, Dr. Clanny, of Sunderland, presented for the purpose of being preserved in their repository, the original safety lamp, as it is described in the Transactions of the Society of Arts, for 1813, and which first called the attention of philosophers, and of the proprietors of coal mines, to the subject.—*Ibid*.

December 10.—At the anniversary of the Royal Academy, the silver medal, with the Discourses of Barry, Opie, and Fuseli, were presented to Mr. Andrew Morton, a native of Newcastle, for the best

copy in the school of painting, from a "Madona and Child," by Raphael.—*Local Rec.*

1821 (Dec. 20).—A spacious and neat chapel built by the congregation under the pastoral charge of the rev. Israel Craig, was opened for public worship at Lowick, in Northumberland. This is one of the most ancient, if not the first presbyterian congregation, that was established in the north of England. It was originally formed by the rev. Luke Ogle, minister of Berwick, who, having resigned his charge there in 1661, in consequence of the act of uniformity, retired to his paternal estate at Bowsdon. His excellent character brought many to hear his ministrations privately; afterwards a chapel was built near to where Barmoor castle now stands. The congregation increasing, a large one was built at Lowick, about the year 1741, which falling to decay, this chapel was erected for the accommodation of that society.—*Ibid.*

December 23.—Died, at Gateshead, aged 64 years, Mrs. Frances Elizabeth King, relict of the rev. Richard King, M. A., rector of Worthen, Salop, and of Steeple Mordon, in Cambridgeshire, and third daughter of the late sir Francis Bernard, bart. This lady was the authoress of several useful and popular works; in particular "The Beneficial Effects of the Christian Temper on Domestic Happiness," "Female Scripture Characters," "The Rector's Memorandum Book," and a "Tour in France, in 1802." Mrs. King had been during her residence in Gateshead, most actively employed in visiting and relieving the sick and necessitous poor, having established two societies for that purpose; she also founded and supported at her own expense, a Sunday school, at St. Edmund's chapel, for educating poor children in Christian principles. Upon the death of her husband in 1810, Mrs. King retired to Gateshead, near the residence of her two married daughters (Mrs. Collinson, rectory, Gateshead, and Mrs. Baker, rectory, Whitburn).—*Ibid.*

Same day, and only two or three hours after Mrs. King, died at Usworth-house, aged 70 years, Mrs. Peareth. This is the more remarkable, as this lady was the coadjutor of Mrs. King, in acts of charity and benevolence.—*Ibid.*

1821.—Population returns.—

County of Durham.....	207,673.
———— Northumberland.....	198,965.
———— Newcastle.....	43,577.

Died, at Morpeth, Mr. William Robson, a severe poetical satirist, and author of several poetical pamphlets and miscellaneous essays and the publisher of "The Poetical Works of the celebrated and ingenious Thomas Whittell" printed at Newcastle in 1815, was also for

some time schoolmaster at Cambo, but removed to Morpeth. Mr. Robson had long expected to receive the original manuscript of Whittell's poems from Mr. Robert Codling, a native of Whelpington, who had settled as a planter at Rock Spring, Rio Bueno, Jamaica, but was surprised to find that the person to whose care it was entrusted had confided it to hands who had transcribed it, and were printing it. He, however, with great promptness and vigour, recovered the manuscript, copied it, and in a few weeks published it, but allowed many of its course indecencies to be softened or omitted, though a far too plentiful sprinkling of impurity was suffered to remain in it.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

1821.—This year an act of parliament was obtained “for making and maintaining a Railway or Tramroad, from the river Tees at Stockton to Witton-park colliery, with several branches therefrom, all in the county of Durham.”—*Local Papers.*



In this year there was commenced in Newcastle, a series of elegantly printed publications entitled “The Fisher’s Garlands,” which have been continued annually up to the present time (1843), and a complete set now forms a very respectable octavo volume. They are all written to popular North country airs, and each Garland is embellished with a beautiful angling vignette, engraved by the celebrated Bewick, or some other able artist. The following gentlemen have contributed to the collection, viz. Robert Roxby, Thomas Doubleday, William Green, Stephen Oliver, Wm. Gill Thompson, &c. The woodcut that precedes this article is one of the vignettes used in the series, by the editor (Mr. Wm. Garret) who has lately furnished a general title for the volume, running thus;—“A Collection of Right Merrie Garlands for North Country Anglers.”—*MS. Col.*

1822 (Jan. 1).—The town of Berwick, was first lighted with gas;

under the direction and superintendence of Mr. Joseph Glynn, of Newcastle.—*Mackenzies Northd.*

1822 (Jan. 3).—The seat of sir J. Astley, bart. at Seaton Delaval, Northumberland, was totally destroyed by fire. The accident was occasioned by a beam in one of the bedroom chimneys taking fire. Fortunately the steward had sufficient presence of mind to order the corridor, which united the wings to the body of the house, to be instantly detached, by which means the two former were saved. Not one of the valuable marble chimney-pieces and statues, executed by Italian masters, was saved from the flames. This magnificent structure was from a design of sir John Vanburgh,—*Mon. Mag.*

January 21.—About five o'clock in the evening, an explosion of gas took place in the shop of Mr. Simpson, grocer, Quayside, Newcastle, occasioned by a candle having been imprudently held near the connecting pipe, which had been injured as was supposed by rats. The shock was very great, and burst the counter under which the pipe was placed, into splinters, forced twenty squares of glass from the windows and considerably shook the adjoining premises. Mr. Simpson, his boy, and a labourer, were all thrown down by the shock.—*Local Rec.*

January 22.—As James Miller, the Warkworth carrier, was coming into Newcastle, seated upon the fore part of his cart, he was shot dead by a musket ball, which entered his head at the right temple, and traversing the brain, was extracted from within the skin behind the left ear. Three young men were that morning amusing themselves by shooting at a target placed against the outside of the west wall of the bull-park, on the Town moor, and it appeared that a shot had been fired which had gone over the wall, ranged the park from west to east, and crossing the turnpike, had struck the unfortunate man, who, in a few minutes after, was found dead on the road, he having fallen from his seat. After a patient investigation of all the circumstances, the jury returned a verdict of manslaughter against Mr. Thomas Burnett, who had been sworn to as one of the party. At the assizes the jury confirmed the verdict of the inquest, and Mr. Justice Bailey condemned in very severe terms the too frequent practice of firing near public highways, thereby endangering the lives of his majesty's subjects. As this practice was illegal, he enjoined the magistrates and police to be very vigilant in bringing such offenders to justice. From the respectability of the gentlemen who were called to speak to Mr. B's character, he was discharged on entering into recognizances, himself in £100., and four sureties of £50. each for his appearance at the next assizes, then to receive the judgment of the court. He was brought up at the next assizes, and fined £10.—*Ibid.*

1822 (Feb. 2).—A most tempestuous wind, accompanied with heavy rain, began to blow from the south-west, and continued with little intermission till the morning of the following day, when it abated. The rain caused a considerable flood in the rivers Tyne, Wear, and Tees. At Newcastle, the fury of the wind drove the water forward with extraordinary violence, particularly against the bridge over which the spray was carried to a great distance. The low lands to the westward were all flooded. Near Shields, James Watson, a wherryman, was washed out of a boat and drowned, leaving a wife and family. A sailor, belonging to the *Hope*, of North Shields, fell out of a sculler boat, in trying to clear it from a hawser, on which it had been driven, and was lost. Another boat was upset, but the persons aboard of it were all fortunately saved. At Sunderland much damage was done by the falling of chimneys, also to the roofs of houses. Many ships and keels in the river were driven from their moorings and much injured by the effects of the gale, but no lives were lost. At Chester-le-street the Wear was so swollen by the rains, that it extended above the arch of the new bridge, which is more than a quarter of a mile from the channel of the river; the whole intermediate space was a complete sheet of water, by which much injury was sustained. At Durham, a stack of chimneys on the house of Miss Wharton, of the North Bailey, was blown down, and fell through the roof into a room of the upper story, in which were two servant maids, who had a most providential escape from destruction. On hearing a loud rumbling



PART OF FRAMWELLGATE BRIDGE, DURHAM (1847).

noise, they rushed into a corner of the room, and a moment afterwards the chimneys fell through the ceiling on the floor, at a few inches from the side of a bed where one of them had been sitting. In Claypath, a nail manufacturer was at work, and another man was sitting beside him, both at about a yard's distance from the gable end, which was blown down, but luckily it fell outwards. Much other damage was done to roofs of houses, &c. It was supposed that the river Wear rose twelve feet above its ordinary height; its banks were overflowed, and the low lands completely inundated. Two horses and a cow were seen floating down that river. The Tees began to rise at nine o'clock on Saturday evening, and during a moonlight night many of the inhabitants of Stockton were employed in removing their property to their upper floors. The water continued rising till ten on Sunday morning, and then stood seven feet deep in the main street. The morning was beautifully calm, and the view from the high grounds of Egglescliff was singularly grand; the Tees had become an immense smooth silver lake, on which boats were plying, and in the midst of which the town of Yarm seemed immersed. After remaining stationary nearly two hours, the flood began to retire, and the streets were nearly free from water by five in the afternoon.—On Saturday evening the road from Croft bridge to Darlington was impassable, and the mail on Sunday morning passed through Hurworth: the water stood fifteen feet at Croft-bridge.—*Surtees, &c.*

1822 (Feb. 15).—Died, at Blaydon, Mr. J. Morrison, aged 10½ years.—*Local Papers.*

February 28.—Died, at North Shields, Mrs. Esther Marshall, aged 100 years.—*Ibid.*

February 28.—About twelve o'clock at night, while two men and two boys were ascending the engine pit at Burradon colliery, and had got a little way from the bottom, melancholy to relate, by some accident, the rope gave way, which falling upon them, killed them all. It appeared in evidence on the coroner's inquest, that the rope was quite a good one, and such as would have worked six months, and that the part which broke had only been subject to wear about a month, from which it was inferred, that it must have met with some accident which had nearly separated it, and had consequently given way when the individuals got upon it. Verdict, *accidental death*.—*Ibid.*

March 3.—A new chapel for the Primitive Methodists, was opened for divine service at Darlington, when upwards of one thousand persons attended; the foundation stone was laid October 16th, 1821.—*Ibid.*

March 5.—Died, at South Shields, Mrs. M. Stanton, aged 101 years.—*Ibid.*

1822 (March 7).—A dreadful fire broke out in the earthenware manufactory of Mr. Wood, at Heworth shore, near Gateshead, and in spite of the utmost exertions, the whole fabric, excepting Mr. Wood's dwelling-house, was reduced to ashes. Several cottages surrounding the pottery were also burnt down, and great loss of furniture was sustained by the poor inmates.—*Local Papers*.

March 18.—Henry Anderson, a pitman, of Old Painshier, was executed at Durham, pursuant to his sentence, for a rape.—*Ibid*.

March 20.—Mark Lawson, and William Currie, were executed in front of the Gaol quay, at Morpeth, pursuant to their sentences, for a highway robbery.—*Ibid*.

March 23.—“The Northumberland, Durham, and Newcastle Infirmary for Diseases of the Eye,” was first opened in Brunswick-place, Newcastle. It was afterwards removed to Prudhoe street, and thence to Saville-row. Messrs. T. M. Greenhow and John Fife, surgeons, took upon themselves the expense of commencing this Ophthalmic Infirmary, which is supported by the annual subscriptions of a few benevolent individuals; and it has been ascertained that during a period of twenty-one years, it has afforded a greater amount of relief, in proportion to its limited funds, than any other similar institution in this kingdom; not less than 17,000 persons having been cured or greatly relieved since its establishment.—*Report, &c*.

March 28.—Died, at Ritton, Northumberland, Mr. Samuel George, aged 100 years. It is remarkable, that after eight years total blindness, he recovered and enjoyed his sight for six years previous to his death.—*Local Papers*.

This month, while Mr. Carr was ploughing in a field in front of Stagshaw house, near Corbridge, he encountered a large flat square stone, which, on being removed, was found to cover the mouth of a cavern about four feet deep, three feet long, and two feet and a half wide, cut in the native rock. This rude tomb enclosed a small antique urn, composed of clay and sand, uncovered and coarsely ornamented; it contained a few ordinary sized teeth, in perfect preservation; the mouldering remains of a skull; a small heart-shaped amulet of grey slaty stone, perforated for suspension; and a tongue-shaped piece of flint, probably an arrow-head. There was no inscription on the stones; no coins were found, nor any means of ascertaining the date.—*Mackenzie's Northd*.

April 6.—George Wilson, the celebrated pedestrian of Newcastle, then in his 56th year, commenced the performance which he had previously announced, viz.—to walk ninety miles in twenty-four successive hours, on the town moor at that place. The spot selected was half-a-mile on the east side of the race ground. He started at twelve

o'clock at noon, and concluded his laborious task ten minutes before twelve o'clock on the following day, notwithstanding the night was stormy, and showers of sleet, rain and hail, rendered the ground very slippery. At the conclusion of the feat, the pedestrian carried the box himself among the assembled crowd to receive the gifts of his friends. He was brought into Newcastle in a chaise and four, at the expense of one of his patrons, with colours flying, and the bells greeted his achievement with several merry peals.—*Local Papers.*



GEORGE WILSON.

May 7.—The first stone of the New Jerusalem Temple, in Percy-street, Newcastle, was laid in due order. The rev. James Bradley performed the usual ceremony; then, standing upon the stone, offered up a prayer that the undertaking might be crowned with success. The names of the subscribers, and a record of the object of the building, hermetically sealed in a glass phial, were deposited in the foundation stone. February 16, 1823, it was opened for worship, when the rev. S. Noble, of London, delivered three impressive discourses, illustrative of the doctrines of that church.—*Ibid.*

May 8.—Died, Matthew Russell, of Brancepath castle, and of Hardwicke, esq., vice-lieutenant of the county of Durham, only son of William Russell, of Brancepath castle, esq., who was one of the

richest commoners in England. He represented Saltash in several successive Parliaments, and died most sincerely respected and lamented.—*Sharp's Burg. of Durham.*

1822 (May 16).—Mr. Kent exhibited his marine velocipede upon the river Tyne. Being ascension day, and the weather very fine, he fired his musket, and performed a variety of evolutions with much ease and dexterity, to the great delight of a large concourse of spectators. June 3rd. Mr. Kent exhibited his apparatus at Sunderland, to at least 20,000 spectators.—*Local Papers.*

May 24.—The Northumberland Flax-mill, at the Ouseburn, near Newcastle, belonging to Messrs. Clarke, Plummer and Co., was discovered to be on fire, supposed to have arisen from a flake of soot flying out of the engine chimney into an open window in a garret, where flax and tow were deposited, which took fire, and were instantly consumed. The manufactured goods in the rooms below were saved, but the flames were not got under until the reeling-room and the machinery therein, with the floors of the garret and store-room were entirely burnt.—*Ibid.*

Same day, an act for building a new gaol and house of correction in Newcastle, and another act for facilitating the collection of certain tolls payable to the mayor and burgesses of the same place, received the royal assent.—*Ibid.*

May 25.—A bull was baited at Cullercoats sands, near Tynemouth.—*Ibid.*

May 28.—A bull was baited at Sunderland, when a poor man, named Simon Thornton, was thrown down by the crowd, and had his leg broken, of which he afterwards died. Several bull baitings had recently taken place at Sunderland.—*Local Rec.*

May 29.—A fire broke out in the Sunderland brewery, belonging to Messrs. Fenwick and Co., which threatened destruction to the building and the neighbouring houses. However, by timely assistance it was got under, but with considerable damage to the interior of the building, and the property therein.—*Local Papers.*

May 31.—In consequence of information to the excise officers of Newcastle, an illicit distillery was discovered in the waste of an old coal mine, in a field near Fenham Hall, adjoining the Town-moor. The mine appeared to be one of the most ancient in that part of the country, and was surrounded by furze and underwood. At the bottom of the shaft, which was gained by a gradual descent of several yards, was a small aperture like the mouth of an oven, which could only be entered by crawling; this led to a large apartment in the mine, wherein were found two stills, with about 200 gallons of wash, and a complete distillery apparatus, valued in all at about £50. It appear-

ed to have been abruptly abandoned for fear of detection. A long chimney, built with brick, conveyed the smoke into the old workings, whence the neighbouring pits had a draught. The coal of the mine supplied the fuel necessary for the work; water was also found upon the spot. As soon as the discovery was known, hundreds of persons visited the place, many of whom were induced to explore "*The Smug-gler's Hole*," as it was now called, and some who ventured into it had to stay much longer than they calculated on. About four o'clock on the morning of the 6th of June, three young men, to gratify their curiosity, ventured in about a mile, it was supposed, from the entrance. They had provided themselves with candles, which they considered sufficient for their purpose; they had, however, proceeded too far, and not having marked their way, were unable to retrace their steps, and their candles being nearly consumed, they were reduced to the necessity of making a fire with a hammer handle (which they had with them for the purpose of knocking off petrifications) and some pieces of coal which they found in the place. As the day advanced their friends became alarmed for their safety, and about twelve o'clock, some pitmen coming to the place, kindly offered their assistance, and, after some time, found the young men, who had been listening with much anxiety to hear the approach of any deliverer. They had not followed these friendly men far, when he who carried the candle stumbled, and they were again in total darkness; and such was the difficulty of their situation, that even with these experienced guides, they were obliged to continue in this dreary cavern several hours longer, when other two pitmen proceeded in, and extricated the whole about half-past four o'clock in the afternoon, the young men having been under ground without any food upwards of twelve hours. The roof and floor of the cavity were covered with very curious petrifications, called stalactites, formed by the drippings of water. Several other persons were liberated by pitmen, so that it became necessary to build up the aperture; but such was the curiosity of the public, that the mason work was soon demolished.—*Local Rec.*

1822 (June 5.)—Died, at the Grove, near Durham, of a severe illness, aged 64, George Stephen Kemble, esq. son of Mr. Roger Kemble, and brother of Messrs. John and Charles Kemble, and of Mrs. Siddons, all of great theatrical celebrity. His mother, too, was an actress; and it is remarkable, that she played the part of *Anna Bullen* on the very night that Stephen Kemble was born, which was just at the time when, as *Queen*, she was supposed in the play to have given birth to the princess Elizabeth. He was born at Kingstown, in the county of Hereford, May 3, 1758; was put apprentice to Mr. Gibbs, surgeon, at Coventry; but preferring the stage, after a course of

practice in England, Scotland, and Ireland, he appeared at Covent garden, Sept. 24, 1783. In November following he married Miss Satchell, a favourite actress of the same theatre. Leaving Covent garden in the following year, after performing some time at the Haymarket, Mr. Kemble became a manager himself; and conducted, successively, the theatres of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool, Newcastle, and several others, with good success. He was afterwards acting manager of Drury lane theatre. To a mind well stored with the beauties of our dramatic authors, and possessed of a rich fund of entertaining anecdotes, Mr. Kemble united a kind and social disposition. On the stage, he was chiefly remarkable for playing sir John Falstaff, it is said, without stuffing. The last time he appeared on the stage was for the benefit of a part of his family, on May 20th, when he performed *Sir Christopher Curry* in Inkle and Yarico. He was then apparently in his usual state of health, but in a few days afterwards he was attacked by inflammation in his bowels, which terminated his mortal existence. Mr. Kemble, who was a very corpulent man, had retired for some years from the exercise of the laborious profession of an actor. In many characters he was confessedly unrivalled; and it is no small commendation, that he was considered by the late Mr. Sheridan to be the best declaimer he had ever heard on or off the stage. He was also possessed of considerable literary talents, having written various addresses, songs, &c. &c. which appeared from time to time in different journals. Mr. Kemble published, "Odes, Lyrical Ballads, and Poems, 8vo. 1809, with a portrait. June 11th, his remains were interred in the chapel of the Nine Altars, at the east end of Durham cathedral, on the north side of the shrine of St. Cuthbert. —*Gent's Mag.* &c.

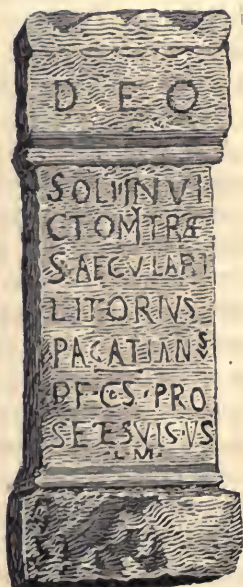
1822 (June).—This month, the antiquities represented on the two succeeding pages were discovered at the station of Housesteads or Borcovicus, Northumberland. Some workmen who were employed by Mr. Gibson, the proprietor of the station, to build a dry stone fence, and had permission from him to dig up for that purpose any loose stones or old walls, on condition that they neither used nor destroyed any that were inscribed or curiously carved; after removing a few loose stones, near the surface, they struck upon the top of the altar (2). The perfect state of its finely carved horns and incense basin, induced them to remove the soil and rubbish from around it with caution; and in the progress of this curious and careful investigation, they found the spot in which they were working, bounded by four walls of common masonry. These walls faced the four chief points of the winds and formed a rectangular area of twelve feet eight inches, from north to south, by ten feet from east to west, and having in the west end a recess



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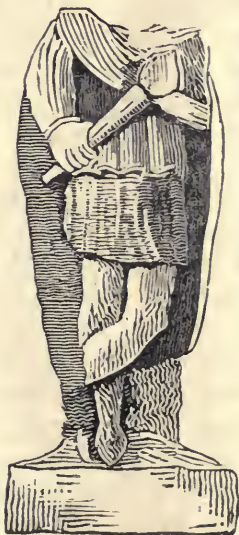
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thirty inches deep and seven feet long. The east wall had a doorway in it. The whole seemed to have been built under the surface, as some of the walls on the outside were of very rough workmanship.



The accompanying plan will enable the reader not only to obtain a better idea of the cave; but shows the situation which the altars occupied. The floor was paved with thick sandstone slates of irregular sizes and shapes. The two large inscribed altars (1 and 2) and the stone bearing the signs of the zodiac (3) were still standing in their first situation, their backs being nearly in a line with the outside of the recess, in which there were remaining steps, as of a passage through the west wall. No. 4 also appeared to occupy its original place; but the sixth was lying on its face before the zodiac. The seventh was on one side, immediately behind it, and on a sort of pedestal of hewn stone thirty inches square; but very slightly raised above the level of the floor. The fragments 8, 9, 10, 11, were found near No. 6. with which they had originally been connected. This then was an artificial cave, dedicated to the worship of Mithras, and in itself, and the antiquities found in it, affords one of the finest and most complete illustrations of the nature of that worship of any that has hitherto been discovered. The cave itself seems to have been a low contemptible hovel, dug out of a hill side, lined with dry walls and covered with turf or straw; for the ruins of its walls and roof had not been sufficient to hide the altars from the action of the weather. The slender rim of the zodiac was broken; but the altars were found standing upright in their original position with their heads weathered, apparently by long exposure to the atmosphere. They were indeed only a few inches below the present surface, while their lower parts were as fresh and perfect as on the day they were turned off the bench of the mason who carved them. The rubbish in the interior consisted chiefly of a loamy vegetable mould, intermixed with the roots of trees, and covered with peat earth, together with some of the rough stones which had fallen from the rude walling. A spring was an essential requisite to a Mithraic cave, and the waters that rose in this were drained from its doorway into an adjoining lech in 1809, when extensive foundations of apartments, that had communicated internally with the cave, were ransacked for stones for a field wall on the western side of the estate. Some fragments of vessels of red earthenware were found among the rubbish near the altar, probably parts of the fictilia that belonged to the temple of Mithras. These foundations have given rise to an

idea that some larger temple had stood here, and that this was a mere attachment thereto. The following description in Homer's *Odyssey*, of the cave of the nymphs in the Isle of Ithica, shews the high antiquity of cavern worship, Though brief, it is very full and forcible:—

A broad-leaved olive decks the haven's head
Near to a cave, how lovely ! but how dark !
The holy place of nymphs, the Naiads called.
There goblets are, and jars of marble made,
Wherein the honey bee constructs its cells.
There too, long looms of stone, on which the nymphs
Sea purple garments weave, a wondrous sight.
Fountains it has eternal, and two gates—
The northern one to men admission gives,
That to the south is more divine—a way
Untrod by men—to immortals only known.

Mithraism was a species of Sabaism which in old times prevailed from China through Asia and Europe, as far as Britain. During the reign of Commodus the former had become common among the Romans; and, in the time of Severus, had extended over all the western part of the empire. It was imported from Syria, and synonymous with the worship of Baal and Bel in that country; for, in it, as in the mysteries of Osiris in Egypt, and of Apollo in Greece and Rome, the sun was the immediate object of adoration. We will now proceed to describe the sculptures and inscriptions found in the cave.

The first is translated thus “Publius Proculus, a centurion, in due performance of a vow to the god the Sun, the invincible Mithras, lord of ages—their highnesses Gallus and Volusinus being Consuls,”—which office these joint emperors filled in 253, in which year they were slain. The top of this altar had suffered so much from the weather, that the words *DEO SOLI* on its capital, were nearly effaced: but its body was fresh and perfect as on the day on which it was set up. The second is translated thus:—“To the god the Sun, the unconquerable Mytras, lord of ages; Litorius Pacatianus, a consular beneficiary, for him and his willingly and duly, according to a vow, erected this altar.” Excepting some slight injury in its head, it is in the finest preservation, and bears on one side the patera and on the other the chalice. It is four feet and seven inches high. The third and most important remain is that which was found between the two already described. It consists of a bust of Mithras seated between two hemispheres, surrounded by the twelve signs of the Zodiac, and holding in his right hand, opposite Taurus, a sword,—and in his left, opposite Virgo, a torch. The signs commence after the Roman manner at

Aquarius or January, and end with Capricorn or December. The stone which bears the whole when perfect has been four feet high and two and a half feet broad. It is much thinned away towards the upper part of the Zodiac, probably to make it less top heavy, and less likely to be overturned. This thinness however has made it liable to be broken, and after its discovery it was in several pieces, and it wants



the part of the rim, which contained the sign Libra and part of Cancer, as here represented. The uplifted torch in one hand of Mithras denoted the rising of the sun above the lower hemisphere, and the sword in the other that he was coming forth as the Conqueror of Winter, while in a deeper sense they had reference to doctrines respecting the eternal essence of Deity, and the immortality of the human soul. This as well as the others found in the cave, are in the colonnade of the society of Antiquaries, Newcastle, and this tablet in particular has had its parts so far as they exist, cemented in their original form. The fourth is an altar, seventeen inches high, the inscription nearly illegible. On its



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sides are the patera and the præfericulum. This was found without the cave and about ten feet from its east wall. The fifth was found at the north east corner of the cave, within its bounds. It was standing, with its back to the wall. The bust of the Sun on its capital has seven radii, around its head, and is in rude and very low relief. Indeed the whole altar, which is twenty inches high, is a very poor specimen of masonry. The inscription also is very rudely and inaccurately cut. It may be Englished thus:—"Hieronymus, performing a vow, freely and duly, dedicates this to the Sun." The sixth, eighth,

ninth, tenth, and eleventh figures represent portions of a great Taurine tablet which has formerly graced this cave. It had probably been broken up about twelve years previous to this discovery, and parts of it used as the cover of a drain near the place, where probably they may, on some day come to light. Of the five fragments which remain, the two largest when conjoined, measure nearly six feet in height. The larger of these bears one of the fore legs of the bull stretched out and above, a Mithras, habited in the usual Chlamys (or short floating cloak) and

Phrygian bonnet, with a lighted torch in his right hand, and the caduceus of Mercury in his left, symbols of his office of guardian of the gate of Cancer and conductor of souls from one of the constellations and the milky way, "because this is the place of the heavens where generation commences by which the world subsists." The lesser por-



tions of the tablet has over this Mithras, a lunette or symbol of the moon, who, according to Porphyry's comment, is the queen of generation and as such was denominated by the ancients both a bee and a bull; for the exaltation of the moon is in Taurus, and trees are generated from oxen on which account they are called "ox born" which name is likewise attributed to souls proceeding to generation." Of this interesting tablet, so much exists, and so many connective circumstances are deducible from these fragments, that we may safely form a conclusion that it greatly resem-

bled a similar tablet, which will afterwards be spoken of, and which will greatly assist us in forming an idea of the original appearance of the tablet of the Mithraic cave of Borcovicus. The seventh was found lying on a square pediment slightly elevated above the floor. It is a statue in the Mithraic dress, wanting its head, three feet high, and as the Genius of the Gate of Cancer, bearing the uplifted torch, but broken at the legs into two pieces. Why this genius should be represented both separately and on the great tablet, is not certainly known. Its left arm, and the upper part of the torch are also much mutilated. It is neatly executed in sandstone. A similar figure was found at Chester and is described by Pennant, so as to render the two almost identical. Mithraic antiquities have been found likewise at Cambeck fort, in Cumberland; and Mr. Macgregor has published an elaborate paper in the *Archæologia Æliana*, to prove that the Zodiac in the porch of Saint Margaret's church, at York, is of Roman origin, and a remnant of a temple of the Sun or Mithras there. Indeed Stukely, in the *Philosophical Transactions*, published a bas relief of Mithras slaying the bull, and other accompanying symbols, which have been republished in Gough's *Camden*: and the council of the Antiquarian Society have allowed the use of the following woodcut of one of these tablets from the works of Depuis, and engraved as an illustration of the

subject in the account of these antiquities published in their Transactions, at the time of their discovery.

In the uppermost compartment we have the sun at the gate of Capricorn seated in his quadriga: then an infant Mercury or Mithras entwined with the serpent. After this follow twelve altars—one for the Sun, another for the Moon, and two each for the summer and winter house of the five planets, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn. The winged youth, entwined with the serpent is Mithras in his prime, and the last figure, the Moon, in her biga, and her house



Cancer. The compartments on the left also represent Mithras at the Northern gate, with his uplifted torch, lighting souls through it into the world; and the Genius with an inverted torch, shews the way through the gate of Capricorn to region of the shades below. The two trees on each side of Mithras slaying the bull, are the two equinoxes, the vernal represented by the lighted torch, and the tree in leaf—the autumnal, by the extinguished torch, the tree in fruit, and the sign Scorpion; and Mithras slaying the bull—is the sun rising in his strength in the sign Taurus, and coming to subdue the ravages of the year and fecundate the earth with the blood of his sacrifices, “for

they assigned a congruous place to Mithras, near the equinoctial ; and hence he bears the sword of Aries, because this animal is martial, and is the sign of Mars : he is likewise carried in the Bull, the sign of Venus, because the bull as well as Venus is the ruler of Generation." Much curious information, in further illustration of this subject may be found in Hodgson's Northumberland, pt. 2. vol. iii. ; the Transactions of the Antiquarian Society ; Porphyry's "De antro Nympharum" appended to Taylor's Proclus ; and Montf. III., iii., ii, &c.

1822 (July).—A labourer who was employed winning stones in Stobcross-field, in the estate of Thrislington, in the parish of Bishop-Middleham, Durham, turned up with his pick-axe some broad lime-stone flags, scarcely 18 inches below the surface, and discovered lying beneath them a perfect human skeleton. On the right side, near the hip bone, lay the iron head apparently of a lance or javelin. This first discovery was on the highest ground of the field. Another skeleton was found about 20 yards to the north-west, with a smaller lance head, also of iron. Eight or nine other sepulchres containing human bones, were afterwards opened at various distances, but all apparently gathered round the crown of the field, where perhaps lay the chieftain of the race : in none of these were found any implement either of war or peace. The mode of sepulture was uniform and simple. The soil and marle, or soft limestone, had been cleared away to the depth of about two feet, and the skeleton lay on the level marle. On each side a row of large round stones was arranged, and on these were supported broad flags of limestone, which covered the deposit. The distance and regularity of the graves seem to forbid the supposition of their tenants having fallen in battle, but that it was the family burial-place of some early Saxon owner of the soil, before the conversion of his tribe to Christianity. In one deposit there were the remains either of a female or a very young person ; in another, the bones of a horse, and also some smaller animal, perhaps a dog, were found mingled with human remains. The graves were not dug east and west, but in various directions. The larger lance head measured nearly eight inches in length, and a little above one inch in diameter ; the smaller seven inches by nearly one inch in diameter. The teeth of the two skeletons near which the lance heads were found were quite perfect. Some small portions of wood were adhering to the larger lance head.
—*Surtees.*

July.—The owners of Hetton colliery having occasion to make a reservoir for water at the summit of Warden Law, a hill of considerable altitude in the county of Durham, at the depth of ten feet, the workmen discovered an oak tree, which measured seventy feet long, three feet in diameter at one end, and two feet at the other. The

branches extended thirty feet further, which made the whole length one hundred feet. The workmen bored down ten feet further, and found nothing but wood, but it was not dug out. A large quantity of nuts and nut-bushes was found, the former were very perfect. About the same time, as some quarrymen were laying bare a quarry belonging to the same owners, they discovered a human skeleton about three feet below the surface, with an old fashioned button and two breeches knee-buckles, which had probably been worn by the deceased.—*Local Rec.*

1822 (July 9).—Died, in All Saints' poor-house, Newcastle, Benjamin Starkey, in his 65th year. This eccentric, well known by the name of *Captain Starkey*, being a free burgess, was for some time an inmate of the Freeman's hospital, in the Manor-chare, but previous to his death had been removed to the poor-house. Mr. Starkey, who was uncommonly polite, had a peculiarly smooth method of obtaining the loan of a halfpenny, and for which he was always ready to give his promissory note, which his creditors held as curiosities. His memoirs, written by himself, with a portrait and fac-simile of his hand-writing, were published in Newcastle, in 1818.—*Ibid.*



CHAPTER X.



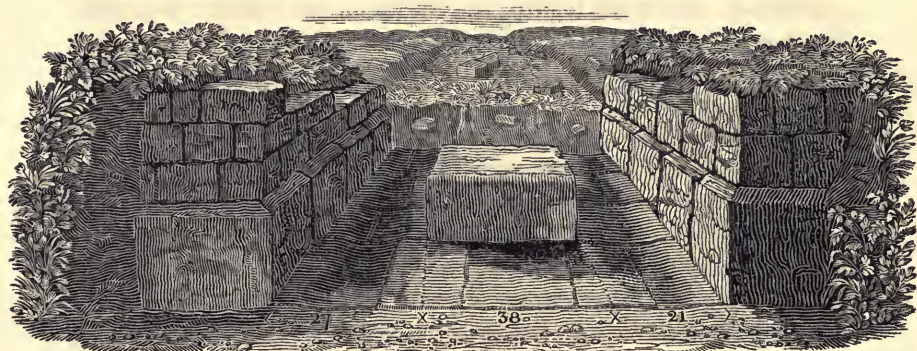
IN the month of July, 1822, the workmen employed in digging for the foundations of the new gaol at Morpeth, found, at the depth of fifteen feet below the surface, many deers horns, and a cowrie shell, one and a half inch long umbilicated, faintly freckled with yellowish spots, fine brown spots on each side, and dark spots glazed over with white on the white part of the spire and margin; also large oak trees, and wood and nuts of the hazletree—remains unquestionably of antient woods that had grown upon the spot. In cutting through the wear of the mill, it appeared to have been heightened, as the bed of the river above it was filled up with gravel and sleck brought from the country above.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

July 11.—An adjournment of the general quarter sessions of the peace for the county of Northumberland, was held at Morpeth, for the purpose of laying the foundation stone of the new gaol, house of correction, and sessions-house at Morpeth. About twelve o'clock, his grace the duke of Northumberland, lord-lieutenant and custos rotulorum of the county, arrived at Mrs. Sunderland's, the Queen's Head inn, when, soon afterwards, the procession proceeded in due form to the site of the intended building. On arriving at the spot, the various coins of his majesty George IV. were placed in a glass vase, as also three beautiful coronation medals of gold, silver, and bronze, and a brass plate with a suitable inscription, were deposited in a cavity cut in the stone to receive them. A large and massy stone of one ton weight was then raised, and being lowered to its proper place, was adjusted and laid by his grace in the usual form. The silver trowel

was presented to his grace by the chairman, Thomas Clennell, esq., at the same time addressing his lordship in very appropriate terms. The duke then returned thanks to the numerous assemblage present, and to the magistrates in particular, for the compliment paid him in inviting him to lay the stone—that he always was particularly attentive to every wish to serve the county—that it gave him great pleasure to attend, as far as possible, to their wishes at all times—that he felt the greatest pleasure in learning from the chairman of the county, that the calendar for the ensuing assizes was only deformed by one capital offence, a great proof of the good morals of the county—and he was happy to say, he observed an increasing prosperity in the county at large. He concluded by trusting, that when the building was finished, it would be the only house in the county unoccupied. There was a large assemblage of ladies, filling a temporary gallery purposely erected for their accommodation, and well suited for a general view of the ceremony. The new gaol is situated on the south side of the Wansbeck, on the east side of the great north road, and under banks that overlook it from the south. Mr. Dobson, architect, Newcastle, was the successful candidate, for this great undertaking, which has been completed under his direction at the cost of £71,000. The whole of it has an outline of an octagonal form, stands upon three acres of ground, and consists of an outer wall from 20 to 30 feet high, a gateway, sessions house, chapel, house of correction, wards for debtors and felons, and a governor's house. It is in the castellated style of Edward the First, and like that of Caernarvon castle. The gateway is an imposing mass of building, 72 feet high, on the second floor of which is the sessions house or hall for county meetings, 92 feet by 64, and 41 feet high: it is an heptagonal semicircle, surrounded by a gallery, large enough to hold 3,500 persons. The ceiling of this and the other principal rooms are ribbed and vaulted in a style suited to the character of the exterior of the building. It was first used for a county meeting, when the measure of reform in parliament was brought forward in it in February, 1831, and for sessions in April following. All the cells on the ground floor, both of the gaol and house of correction, are vaulted and groined in very admirable work, done by Messrs King, Kyle, and Hall, masons, who, also, executed the masonry of the rest of the building in a masterly manner. It has been in use as a prison since November, 1828.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

1822 (July 22).—The rev. John Hodgson had the rubbish partly removed from the western side of the southern gateway of the Roman station of Borecovicus, or Housesteads, and found the ground-work of the jamb on one side, and of the pillar on the other, formed of very large stones, bevelled on the upper bed to a scarcement of about three

inches. The passage-way was 7 feet 2 inches wide, and flagged with large squared freestones; but obstructed at two feet inwards by a stone about three feet long and broad, and one foot high, and carefully set in the flagging, which on each side of it was deeply worn by the feet of passengers. This apparent obstruction, he afterwards ascertained from the pivot holes in the floor against each wall, had been for the two leaves of a folding-door to shut against. The annexed sketch of the appearance of one-half of this gateway, as cleared from rubbish, was made by Mr. Hodgson from memory, and engraved in the account of the Mithraic antiquities found at this place in the preceding month, and published by the Antiquarian Society of Newcastle.—*Hodgson's Northd.*



1822 (July 25).—Died, in London, Mr. John Emery, the celebrated actor, aged 45 years. Mr. Emery was a native of Sunderland, and was educated at Ecclesfield, in Yorkshire, where he doubtless acquired that knowledge of the dialect which obtained him so much celebrity. He may be said to have been born an actor, both his parents having followed that profession with some degree of provincial fame. In parts designedly written for him, he had no competitor; and Tyke (School of Reform) and Giles (Miller's Maid), in parts of which his acting was truly terrific and appalling, will long be remembered. Besides his histrionic powers, he was an excellent musician, a poet, and a painter: his drawings of coast scenery particularly, being much admired, and when offered for sale fetching high prices.—*Gent's. Mag.*

July 25.—Robert Russell, of Newcastle, undertook to walk 101 miles in twenty-four successive hours, and completed this arduous task four minutes within the time. The spot chosen for this feat was the ground whereon George Wilson had exhibited. This was Russell's first pedestrian essay.—*Local Rec.*

August 6.—At a meeting of the literary and Philosophical society of Newcastle, it was agreed to purchase the celebrated Wycliffe

museum, late in the possession of George Allan, esq., of the Grange, which was to have been sold by public auction, but which had been purchased entire by private contract (for the purpose of offering it to the society), by G. T. Fox, esq., of Westoe, and some other spirited individuals. The thanks of the society were also voted to Mr. Fox, for the liberal manner in which he had accommodated the society in the conditions of the purchase. The collection contains nearly a complete list of British birds, more especially of the rarer kinds, with a very valuable selection of foreign birds, together with a curious collection of insects, shells, reptiles, minerals, and a great variety of miscellaneous curiosities. The preceding year Dr. Clanny, of Sunderland, presented to this society a very fine collection of insects made at the Cape of Good Hope by C. Coleleugh, esq., which is so much the more interesting to the entomologist, as it is understood to be complete.* These form a valuable addition to the beautiful collection from Demerara, which had been presented to the society some time before by Major George Anderson, of Newcastle, and which were afterwards scientifically arranged by G. T. Fox, esq.—*Local Rec.*

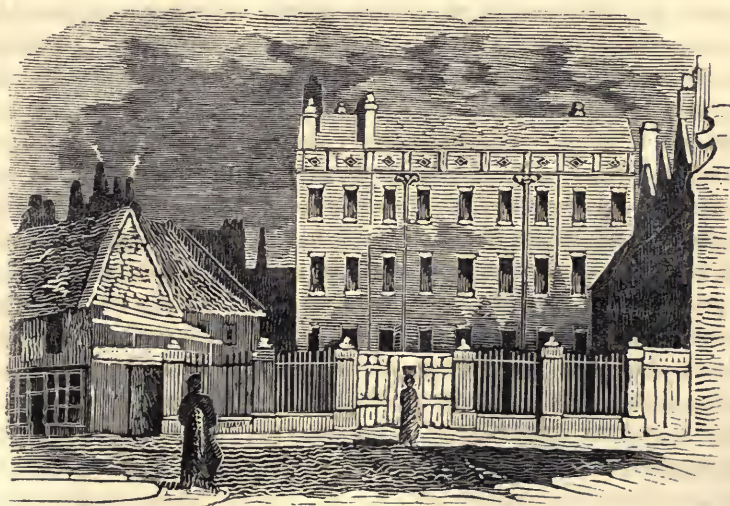
1822 (Aug. 8).—A spermaceti whale was killed off Linemouth, near Cresswell, Northumberland; it was 61 feet long, and 37 feet 4 inches in girth. The breadth of its tail was 14 feet; of its head, 10 feet 9 inches; and the space from the eyes to the nose 21 feet. The upper jaw projected 5 feet over the lower one, which had 2 rows of teeth, externally resembling ivory, but porous and ash coloured within. Its height, when first thrown on shore, was 12 feet; and it produced 9 tons and 158 gallons of oil. It was claimed by the proprietors of the land on each side of the Line; but the admiralty settled the dispute between the claimants by seizing the oil, and fixing their broad arrow upon the bones, which were latterly given up to Mr. Cresswell Baker, and removed into the pleasure grounds at Cresswell, where they will be long admired as objects of rarity and vastness of size. For several days after it was killed, immense crowds of people flocked from the adjacent country, and even from great distances to see it; and its stupendous size never failed to rivet the attention of all who viewed it.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

August 9.—Robert Peat, of Ravensworth, near Richmond, aged 50 years, was executed in front of the county courts at Durham, pursuant to his sentence, for poisoning, by putting a quantity of laudanum into the broth of a relation named Robert Peat, at Darlington, from whom he had stolen his will.—*Local Papers.*

* It is due to Dr. Clanny to state that the Lar, figured at page 215, was presented to the Antiquarian Society of Newcastle, by that gentleman.

1822 (Aug. 13).—On the morning, after very tempestuous weather, the wind blowing with great violence from the W.S.W., and a good deal of sea getting up, the commodore felt it his duty to advise his majesty king George IV. (then on his voyage to Scotland) to anchor for shelter in Berwick roads, which was accordingly done at 9 A.M., the Royal Sovereign Yacht being in company. During the stay of the royal squadron in the roads, a loyal address from the inhabitants of Berwick was sent off, which was read to his majesty at the palace of Holyrood, and which was most graciously received.—*Local Papers.*

August 30.—His royal highness the duke of Sussex visited the city of Durham, where a masonic provincial grand lodge was held to receive him. A splendid procession took place, during which his royal highness was loudly cheered. He afterwards dined with the masons in their hall. On the following day his royal highness proceeded to Sunderland, by the river Wear, in company with Mr. Lambton, in that gentleman's barge. The ships in the harbour were decorated with flags, and the people loudly cheered him. On entering the carriage that awaited his arrival, the populace took the horses out, and drew him to the house of A. Fenwick, esq., where he partook of a cold collation. Previous to leaving Sunderland, his royal highness addressed the crowd, and thanked them for the kind reception with which they had honoured him.—September 2d, his royal highness honoured Newcastle with his presence, in order to lay the foundation stone of the new building for the literary and philosophical society in



House of Thomas Anderson, Esq., formerly occupying the site of the Library of the Literary and Philosophical Society, &c. (1820).

Westgate-street. At noon, his royal highness, in Mr. Lambton's carriage, drawn by six horses, accompanied by lady Louisa Lambton, Mr. Lambton, and Mr. Stephenson, reached Gateshead toll-bar, his suite following in other carriages, when the populace took out the horses, and drew the royal visitor down Gateshead, amidst the cheering of the multitude assembled on the occasion; his royal highness returned their salutes with great affability. On the arrival of the cavalcade at Tyno bridge, he was met by Alfred Hall, esq., sheriff of Newcastle, accompanied by a number of gentlemen, who welcomed the royal visitor on his entrance into that ancient and loyal town, to which he made a suitable reply. A salute of 21 guns was at this time fired from the castle, whilst the bridge for some minutes exhibited one solid mass of carriages and people. Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., and Cuthbert Ellison, esq., the members for the town (who had accompanied the sheriff to pay their respects to his royal highness), got up in front of the carriage to usher in the duke; and sir Matthew addressed the populace, insisting that the people of Newcastle should now have the honour of drawing his royal highness, as he had passed the limits of the county of Durham. This was immediately done, and they proceeded to the mansion-house, when an address, previously voted to the noble duke by the common council, was read by the recorder, after which his royal highness was presented with the freedom of the town. The company then sat down to a cold collation. An especial grand lodge of ancient Free masons of England was held at the concert-room in the Bigg market. Between one and two o'clock, the different lodges in their official badges, accompanied by the insignia of their fraternity, proceeded in grand procession to the Mansion-house, and marched thence to the site of the building, which it reached a little before three o'clock. His royal highness took possession of a throne prepared for him; sir M. W. Ridley, bart. sat on his right hand, and J. G. Lambton, esq. on his left. The masonic ceremony of laying the stone then took place, amid the loud cheering of a great assemblage of people, who had been admitted by tickets, and for whose accommodation a secure scaffolding had been erected. A plate, with a suitable inscription, and an elegantly cut glass vase (which was presented for that purpose by Mr. Joseph Price), containing the coins of the reign of George IV., were deposited in a cavity in the stone. The large Assembly-room having been liberally granted by the committee of proprietors for the accommodation of his royal highness, nearly three hundred gentlemen assembled in it to dinner, about five o'clock, sir M. W. Ridley, bart., in the chair. About nine o'clock, the duke took his leave, and proceeded with sir M. W. Ridley, bart., to Blagdon. September 4th, his royal highness

passed through Alnwick, on his way to earl Grey's seat at Howick. A great concourse of people assembled to receive the royal visitor, and his carriage was drawn through the town by the populace, amid enthusiastic cheers, the waving of handkerchiefs, and the firing of cannon. His royal highness was very affable, and extremely pleased with the kind, hospitable, and enthusiastic reception with which he had been greeted during his visit to the north. September 9th, his royal highness passed through Newcastle on his way to Raby castle, whither he arrived the same day, on a visit to the earl of Darlington.

—*Local Papers.*

1822 (Sept. 10).—Died, at her house, in Union-street, Newcastle, after a short illness, Mrs. Sarah Hodgson, in her 63d year, printer and proprietor of the Newcastle Chronicle, by which event society suffered the loss of an upright and useful member; the place of her residence, an enlightened and indefatigable manager of several of its charitable institutions, particularly of the Lying-in hospital; her family, an affectionate and judicious parent; and an extensive circle, a most warm-hearted and active friend. September 15th, 1822, a funeral sermon, on occasion of the lamented death of Mrs. Hodgson, was preached in Hanover-square chapel, by the rev. William Turner.

—*Local Rec.*

September 23.—The first annual exhibition of the Northumberland institution for the promotion of the fine arts, took place in the rooms which had been prepared for the purpose, by Mr. T. M. Richardson, in Brunswick place, Newcastle, and many capital pictures from artists of first rate talent were exposed to public view. This exhibition continued annually untill the Northern Academy of Arts was built in Blakett-street.—*Ibid.*

September 27.—Died, at Low Farnham, Northumberland, Mrs. Catherine Green, aged 102 years.—*Local Papers.*

October 9.—Died, at Cullercoats, near Tynemouth, William Mills, aged 101 years.—*Ibid.*

October 24 and 25.—After a very severe gale, with thick fog, from the north-east, (but veering towards its conclusion, to the east and south of east), thousands of that handsome little bird, the Golden Crested Regulus (*Regulus Auricapillus*), were seen to arrive upon the sea-shore and sand-banks of the Northumbrian coast; many of them so fatigued by the length of their flight, or perhaps by the unfavourable shift of wind, as to be unable to rise again from the ground, and great numbers were in consequence caught or destroyed. This flight must have been immense in quantity, as its extent was traced through the whole length of the coasts of Northumberland and Durham. There appears little doubt of this having been a migration from the

more northern provinces of Europe, (probably furnished by the pine-forests of Norway, Sweden, &c.), from the circumstance of its arrival being simultaneous with that of large flights of the Woodcock, Fieldfare, and Redwing. A more extraordinary circumstance in the economy of this bird took place during the same winter, viz. the total disappearance of the whole tribe, *natives* as well as strangers, throughout Scotland and the north of England. This happened towards the conclusion of the month of January 1823, and a few days previous to the long-continued snow-storm so severely felt through the northern counties of England, and along the eastern parts of Scotland. The range and point of this migration are unascertained, but it must probably have been a distant one, from the fact of not a single pair having returned to breed, or pass the succeeding summer, in the situations they had been known always to frequent. Nor was one of the species to be seen till the following October, or about the usual time for our receiving an annual accession of strangers to our own indigenous birds.—*Selby's Brit. Orn.*

1822 (Oct. 24).—In addition to the inconvenience arising from the strike of the keelmen on the Tyne, a number of seamen proceeded from Shields up the river in boats, and took the crews from some of the vessels which were loading at the spouts. The mayor of Newcastle, Robert Bell, esq., proceeded down the river, in his barge, with a party of the volunteers and police, and took thirty-two of the rioters into custody, and carried them down to the Low Lights, at Shields, when thirty were put on board the king's cutter. A mob assembled on the sands, and demanded the liberation of the prisoners, which was refused, and the riot act was read by a Northumberland magistrate, soon after which the crowd dispersed. On the following day the prisoners were conveyed from the cutter in carts, under a strong military guard to the castle of Newcastle, to which place a number of refractory seamen, &c., followed the prisoners. Previous to their arrival, all the avenues leading to the castle were guarded by parties of the Northumberland and Newcastle volunteer cavalry, and dismounted troop, to prevent the admission of the anticipated crowd, and a powerful phalanx was placed in front of the castle gates. On the arrival of the party in the Castle-garth, the conduct of the mob was so outrageous, that the riot act was read by the right worshipful the mayor, and two of the ringleaders were taken into custody, one of whom was recognized as having been very active at Shields, while the prisoners were conveyed from the cutter to the carts. A military guard remained all night in the castle.—*Local Papers.*

A neat stone edifice for a school-house, was this year, erected in the village of Newburn, by the duke of Northumberland.—*Ibid.*



1822 (Oct 29).—Died suddenly, at his house, Villiers-street, Bishopwearmouth, aged 72 years, T. Collingwood, esq. M. D., member of the Medical Society, London; Board of Agriculture, and several other learned institutions, many of which owe their origin to him. Dr. Collingwood was born at Bates' cross, near Berwick, on the 7th of July, 1751, and was lineally descended from sir David Collingwood, of Brandon, a branch of the ancient and renowned

Collingwoods of Northumberland. As an agriculturist and mathematician he ranked high; his communications with the board on rural affairs were much esteemed; indeed, in a literary point of view, his productions were varied and numerous. Medicine, poetry, agriculture, and even the drama, at times employed his pen.—*Local Papers*.

November 2.—Half yearly statute hirings for farmers' servants were established in Sunderland, to be held on the first and second Saturdays in November, and the first and second Saturdays in May, in every year. The first was held on the above day.—*Ibid*.

November 5.—A cattle market was established in Sunderland, to be held fortnightly on the Tuesday.—*Ibid*.

November 18.—The Hetton coal company effected the first shipment of coals at their newly erected staith on the banks of the river Wear at Sunderland. The waggon-way, which extends over a space of eight miles from the colliery to the river, and in its course crosses Warden Law (one of the highest hills in this part of the country), was crowded with spectators to witness the first operations of the powerful and ingenious machinery employed for conveying the coal-waggons. Five of Mr. George Stephenson's patent travelling engines, two sixty horse power fixed reciprocating engines, and five self-acting inclined planes (all under the direction of Mr. Robert Stephenson, the company's resident engineer) simultaneously performing their various and complicated offices, with a precision and exactness of the most simple machinery, exhibited a spectacle at once interesting to science, and encouraging to commerce. After the business of the day, the owners of the colliery, with about fifty of their friends, dined at Miss Jowsey's, the Bridge inn, Bishopwearmouth.—*Ibid*.

November.—This month, about a mile south of Whitburn, in the county of Durham, the sand having been removed by the tide, the stumps of seven trees were seen at about one hundred yards in the sea, measuring from high-water mark. The largest was described as about six feet in diameter, and was clearly in the situation in which it had

grown. There was a considerable accumulation of vegetable matter round them, containing leaves, nuts, and broken pieces of branches; next below this was a light blue clay, in which the trees appeared to have grown.—*Arch. Æliana*.

1822 (Dec. 10).—The beginning of this month, the keelmen of the Tyne resumed their labours, after a suspension of about ten weeks, under alleged grievances which the coal owners had determined to resist. At periods during the *stick* they were very refractory, but by the vigilance of the navy and military employed, together with the prompt assistance of the magistracy, their turbulence was suppressed. The Swan cutter was moored on the south side of the river, opposite to Newcastle quay, and fired her morning and evening gun. This was supposed to be the only instance of a ship of war having been so far up the Tyne since the rebellion in 1745–6, when troops were landed at Newcastle from king's ships. In consequence of the restoration of order, the mayor conveyed the thanks of the civil authorities, on the above day, to the officers, seamen, and marines of his majesty's ships the *Egeria*, *Nimrod*, and *Swan*, previous to their departure from the port, the acknowledgments of the civil authorities, and of the gentlemen interested in the coal trade were likewise conveyed to lieut. col. Holmes, 3rd dragoon guards; lieut. col. Brandling, of the Northumberland and Newcastle volunteer cavalry, and the hon. captain Liddell, of the Ravensworth cavalry, for their services in support of the civil power, and the exemplary conduct of the troops under their command.—*Local Papers*.

December 19.—David George Clayter, a private in the 3rd regiment of dragoon guards, was found dead in a field at Sandhoe, near Hexham, having shot himself through the body with a horse pistol which was lying near him. The cause and circumstances of this shocking act, as developed before the coroner and a respectable jury, were most heart rending, it being clear that the unfortunate young man (who had been six years in the regiment, and was highly and deservedly respected by his officers and comrades) fell a victim to his ardent attachment to his wife! About a month before, he had been married at Gretna green, to a young woman named Jane Stokoe, servant in a respectable family in Carlisle, (where he was quartered), and a daughter of Mr. Ralph Stokoe, smith and publican, at Sandhoe. This match having displeased the parents, the mother went to Carlisle, and persuaded the daughter to return home with her, under the pretext of paying a visit to her family, but in reality under the idea that a marriage at Gretna Green was not binding, and that the connexion might be dissolved if the parties were once separated. After the departure of his wife and her mother, the unfortunate husband find-

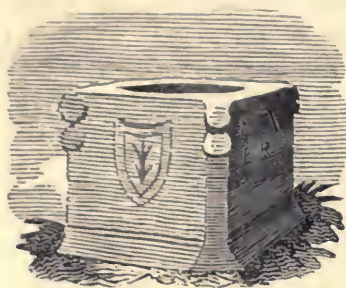
ing that they had taken away every article of the wife's clothing from their lodgings, and comparing this circumstance with the previous conversation of the mother, the dreadful truth flashed upon his mind, and, in a state of distraction he wrote a most affecting letter to his wife, which did not reach her hand, as she had previously been sent away to a relation's at Sunderland bridge, in the county of Durham; but it was opened by her friends at Sandhoe. Not receiving an answer, he obtained a furlough up to the 18th of December, and set out on Sunday the 15th for Sandhoe, where he arrived early on the following morning. Here, of course, he could not find the object of his search, nor obtain from her parents any account whither she had gone, which they studiously kept from him. This raised his mind to a state bordering on phrenzy, and he wandered between Sandhoe and Hexham, until the 19th, when he terminated his existence as above stated. Tied round his arm were a letter to his mother-in-law, dated the 18th, upbraiding her as the cruel cause of the act he was about to commit, and two letters dated the 17th and 18th, to his wife, incoherently written, but breathing the most ardent affection for her, and enclosing in one of them a cheque upon the Neath bank in Glamorganshire, for three hundred pounds, with six years' interest, which he bequeathed to her, hoping that she would never want. These two letters were enclosed in a note to his wife's brother in Hexham, desiring him to forward them to her, as he could rely on no one else to do it, and mentioning that one of them contained £400. These letters were severally read at the coroner's inquest, and their perusal excited a deep sympathy in the coroner and jury. Verdict lunacy.—*Local Rec.*

1822 (Dec. 23).—Died, at Homerton, Mr. John Clennell, aged 50. He was a native of Newcastle upon Tyne, where he was for a considerable period engaged in one of the manufactories of that town; but the ardour of his mind impelled him to the preference of literary pursuits, and in these and in the congenial labours of tuition, his latter years were solely employed. His thirst of knowledge was very great, nor less his desire of its diffusion for general good. He published many years ago an "Essay on the Disclosure of the Processes of Manufacturers," first read to the literary and philosophical society of his native town, of which, as of several other similar institutions in Scotland, he was a member. For some time he conducted a periodical work, devoted to his favourite object of making the secrets of arts and manufactures public property. He was also a contributor to several of the cyclopædias.—*Mon. Mag.*

December 25.—The new Presbyterian church, in Clavering-place, Newcastle (the rev. James Pringle pastor), was opened for divine

service. The rev. J. Mitchell, D.D. of Anderston, Glasgow, and the rev. J. McGilchrist, of Dunse, officiated on the occasion, Mr. Pringle being absent on a mission to Gibraltar.—*Local Rec.*

1822.—An act of parliament was obtained for lighting, paving cleansing, watching and otherwise improving the town of Alnwick.—*Mackenzies Northd.*



3.



This year, the Roman sculpture figured (1.) in the margin, was found on the line of the Roman wall, at a few yards west of Denton hall. The other antiquities have been found at various periods, and are all at Denton hall. The second is what is generally termed a celt. The third a *creeing trough*,* having some illegible letters, and an unknown shield of arms on the sides; doubtless the arms and name of its proprietor. The fine font represented above belonged to the chapel adjacent to the hall, which owed its origin to the priors of Tynemouth, who possessed this place. It is finely carved, of great

antiquity, and in excellent preservation.—*MS. Col.*

Primitive methodist chapel Westgate (parish of Stanhope) Durham, founded. The registers of births and baptisms, 79 entries, extending from 1824 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

* "CREEING-TROUGH—a large round or square mortar for *Creeing* or pounding barley or wheat with, till each seed of corn be *shilled* or freed from husk, and the barley becomes fit for boiling in milk or broth, and wheat to make into frumenty. These Creeing-troughs are still to be found about the old *laird* and farm houses in the north of England and are ornamented in various forms and have the initials of their owners engraved upon them."—*Hodgson's MS. Glos. of North of England Words.*

1822.—Bond-street, now Prudhoe-street, in Newcastle, was formed.
—*Local Papers.*

This year, a number of the old houses in the Side, Newcastle, extending upwards from the Dog-leap-stairs, were pulled down and rebuilt, and the street considerably widened. The removal of the old houses exposed to view, for a short time, a circular tower which flanks the Black-gate on its eastern side. This tower is represented in the annexed engraving, and remains in very perfect condition, especially towards its base.—*MS. Col.*



SEMI-CIRCULAR BASTION OF THE BLACK GATE (1822).

This year, were completed extensive repairs, and additions to Carlol tower, in New Bridge street, which had been principally effected in 1821. They consisted of the enlargement of the apartments, the opening of two windows on the inside, of the repair of the roof, and of the addition of the staircase, tower, &c., alterations creditable to the taste of the company of weavers, whose hall it is; but not in accordance with the style of the building.—*MS. Col.*

This year, a stone bridge, eighty feet in length, and twenty feet in breadth, was built over Dipton-burn, in Northumberland. This brook, was frequently very hazardous to pass after rains.—*Ibid.*

1823 (Jan. 3).—Mr. Charlton, surgeon, of Wylam, having at a late hour been called upon in haste to give his attendance at Oving-

ham, borrowed a spirited horse of a friend, that he might proceed with the least possible delay. He had not gone above half a mile, when he perceived his horse stumble, and he immediately threw himself from the saddle. It was fortunate he did so, for the next instant his horse had fallen down a precipice of nearly seventy feet, and, incredible as it may seem, the animal sustained no injury, but immediately dashed into the Tyne, and swam to the opposite side. Search was made after him, and hearing his master's voice, he was heard to neigh even across the river in token of recognition, and was ultimately restored without blemish.—*Local Papers*.

1823 (Jan. 4).—The paper-mill of Mr. B. Ord, at Moorsley banks, near Durham, took fire, owing to that part of the machinery which is called "The Devil," and is used in tearing rags, preparatory to their being converted into paper, having, from the great heat caused by its rapid motion, become ignited. An old man named Miller, who was left in the care of the mill for the night, gave the alarm, and Mr. Ord and his workmen, who resided on the premises, having been roused from their beds, proceeded to arrest the progress of the flames, and, after considerable exertion, succeeded in getting the fire under, but not until considerable damage had been done. The old man afterwards died of the injury he received by the machinery in endeavouring to extinguish the fire before he gave the alarm.—*Ibid*.

January 10.—A fire broke out in the residence of John Walker, esq., at Westgate-hill, near Newcastle, by which the back parts of the premises were entirely consumed. It originated in a lodging room, from the rush-light setting fire to the bed curtains.—*Ibid*.

January 11.—Died, in Newcastle, in the 70th year of his age, Robert Doubleday, esq., a most active and enlightened member of society. For twenty-six years he filled the office of vice-president and chairman of the monthly meetings of the literary and philosophical society of that town, and for nearly half a century discharged the duties of secretary to the Dispensary. He was, besides, secretary to the Fever hospital, and the Lying-in charity, chairman of the committee of the Royal Jubilee school, and a director of the Savings' bank. His humane and liberal disposition rendered him zealous in the discharge of the duties of these offices, and anxious, by every means in his power, to promote the interests of these several institutions. There is a fine portrait of Mr. Doubleday published by Mr. Charnley.—*Local Rec*.

January 17.—Died, in London, in his 72nd year, George Edwards, esq., M. D., author of several works on political economy. Mr. Edwards was a native of Barnardcastle, in the county of Durham.—*Mon. Mag*.

1823 (Jan. 27).—Died, at his house, in Bedford-row, London, in the 86th year of his age, the celebrated Charles Hutton, LL.D., F.R.S., and for upwards of forty years professor of mathematics in the royal military academy at Woolwich. Dr. Hutton was born in Percy-street, Newcastle. Like many others, he was entirely a self-taught mathematician. In the years 1755 and 1756, Charles Hutton (whose father was employed in the collieries) worked as a hewer in old Long Benton colliery, but a lameness in his arm, from an accident when young, rendering him unfit for so laborious an employment; he opened a school in the village of Jesmond, but afterwards removing to Newcastle, he taught with great reputation till 1773, when on the 29th of May that year he was appointed by the board of ordnance to the professorship of mathematics in the royal military academy at Woolwich, in the room of Mr. Cowley, superannuated. He was elected from a number of candidates, after a strict examination of several days. The following year Mr. Hutton was elected a fellow of the royal society. In 1770 he published in Newcastle, his “Treatise on Mensuration, 4to., dedicated to his grace the duke of Northumberland. The celebrated Mr. Thomas Bewick, then an apprentice to Mr. Beilby, commenced his career as a wood-engraver, by engraving the mathematical diagrams for this work. His publications were very numerous, and have nearly all become standard works in the mathematical seminaries. The beautiful marble bust of him, executed by Gahagan, and which had been presented to himself, September 21st, 1822, by a committee of the subscribers, he bequeathed to the literary and philosophical society of Newcastle. After the expenses of the bust were paid, a considerable surplus remained on hand, with this the committee agreed to engrave a die for striking off medals (one of which to be given in a case to each subscriber), to contain on the *obverse* the head of Dr. Hutton in profile, with an appropriate legend—on the *reverse*, emblems of two philosophical discoveries by him; the one on the density of the earth, and the other on the exact force or strength of gunpowder, with an appropriate *motto*.—Mrs. Hutton died at Jesmond, near Newcastle, May 26th, 1785.—*Local Rec.*

January.—The workmen commenced pulling down the *Maison de Dieu*, built in 1412, over which was the merchants’ court, at the east end of the guildhall, Newcastle, for the purpose of building a new hall for the company of free merchants, and underneath a fish-market. Besides being a great ornament to the east end of the guildhall, it has removed a nuisance (the fish stalls) from the Sandhill, and has also widened the entrance to the quay, which before was inconveniently narrow for the constant traffic in that part. In digging

for a foundation for the new building, part of the foundation of the town's-wall, which had extended along the quay, was removed by blasting, in doing which, at the depth of about twelve feet from the surface, a mason's chisel was taken out of the centre of the old wall, and which must have remained there from its first building.—*Local Rec.*



MAISON DE DIEU, NEWCASTLE (1823).

1823 (January and February).—Northumberland and Durham were visited by a dreadful snow storm, which, drifting into immense heaps, prevented the ordinary intercourse of business, as travelling in any shape was impracticable. The various stage coaches were of course detained at Newcastle. For a whole week, the north and west mails neither reached nor were dispatched from that town. On Gateshead-fell the snow was so drifted, as in one place to be level with the top of a two story house, and here the guard of the London mail must have perished, but for the timely assistance of some pitmen, who brought forward the letter bags on their backs. So great was the fall of snow north of Newcastle, that the mail coach got so completely fixed in it, near Swarland, that it was obliged to be abandoned, after which, it was so rapidly covered with snow, and so buried, as to leave no trace of the place where it was, until after many day's thaw, when the top became visible. The west turnpike, near Newcastle, was

also completely drifted up, and when cut through, exhibited a very singular appearance, as the snow dyke stood in many places twelve and fourteen feet high. Newcastle, on some of the market days during the snow blockade, exhibited no greater bustle than on the ordinary days. On one day during the storm, the mails were dispatched to the north on thirteen saddle horses, the novelty of which excited considerable interest. Travellers were detained at many country places till all the provisions at the inns were exhausted. Sir Carnaby Haggerston, bart., hospitably entertained a large party of strangers in this predicament, at his seat at Haggerston, in Northumberland. Great damage was done to the shipping, many being wrecked near Bamborough. At Durham the snow began to fall, January 11th, accompanied by a dense fog. On the 28th, some signs of a change appeared, and on the 29th, the ice on the river Wear began to give way, but on Saturday the 31st, another heavy fall of snow commenced, and continued almost incessantly for three days. The roads in every direction were entirely blown up, and from Sunday, February 2nd, till the following Sunday, neither the mail nor any of the other coaches reached Durham, either from the north or the south. The London mail reached Darlington regularly, and Rushyford with some difficulty, from thence the bags were forwarded on horseback. February 2nd, the Highflyer and Telegraph stuck fast in the snow drift on the height of Butcher-race, and on Friday the 7th, the mail and another coach were stopped at the same place; ten horses were applied to the mail in vain, and within half an hour after, both coaches were completely covered with a snow wreath, and remained so for two days. On Sunday, February the 9th, the mail from the south arrived in Durham, drawn by six horses, and the same day the north mail, which had been detained in Durham for a week, reached Newcastle with great difficulty. The storm, which continued for about six weeks, was far more severe than that of 1814.—*Local Papers.*

Towards the close of this storm, when few people had ventured from their houses, James Horsley, a respectable farmer in the vicinity of Lemington Branch, near Alnwick, having some urgent business to transact, sallied forth on horseback; but such was the pathless state of the country, that he found it necessary to dismount and lead the animal at the length of the bridle, and by breaking the snow before him succeeded in making certain, but excessively labourious progress. He had not travelled far in this manner, when he felt the bridle suddenly jerked from his hand, and looking around, his ears were assailed by the noise of a heavy fall, succeeded by a loud reverbrating sound. It appeared he had passed over the mouth of an old coal pit,

the covering of which had given way when the superior weight of the horse was imposed, and had fallen along with the poor animal which now lay mangled and lifeless at the bottom.—*R. Bolam's MS.*

1823 (Feb. 2).—Died, in St. Nicholas' poor-house, in Newcastle, James Ilderton, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers.*

February 12.—At three o'clock in the morning, a fire broke out in the lead manufactory of Locke, Blackett, and Co., in Gallowgate, Newcastle, which at first had a very alarming appearance; but by the assistance of the engines of the Newcastle fire-office, and those from the barracks, it was got under before six o'clock. The fire was confined to the red-lead house, where it commenced, the roof of which was burnt off, and two other roofs slightly injured.—*Ibid.*

February 19.—Wednesday evening, a most dreadful accident happened at the Theatre-royal, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The popular piece of "Tom and Jerry" had been produced at the theatre on Monday evening, and was got up in so excellent a manner, and acted with so much spirit, as to merit public approbation, and to excite a strong desire to witness it. It was given out for representation every evening during the week, and on the evening in question, a numerous and respectable audience attended the performance. The gallery was particularly well filled, it being calculated that there were about 500 persons, amongst whom were a very great number of women and children in that part of the house. The play had scarcely commenced when an alarm of "*fire*" in the back of one of the boxes on the left of the centre, was given from the pit, and some other parts of the house, and a flash of fire and a great quantity of smoke soon after penetrating through the gallery floor, caused a sudden panic to pervade that part of the house, and amidst loud cries of "Fire" and screams of distress, a great majority of the persons in it at the time rushed in wild alarm to the stairs. The fire was almost instantaneously extinguished, and the fact immediately announced to the house; but in vain were all assurances of safety, the fears which had been excited were too powerful to be allayed, and thinking only of escape, the affrighted throng rushed head-long down the stairs. Here their progress was stopped by the door at the place where the money was taken, which being but half open, would only admit one or two to pass at a time. In consequence of this stoppage, the part of the stairs between that door and the gallery became completely choaked up, and such a scene of horror and distress ensued as is shocking to contemplate. The pressure upon those near the door, by the continually increasing throng behind them, became intolerable; the screams were awful and heart-rending; some, pressed against the door and other projecting parts, were very violently bruised or killed; others,

thrown down by the throng, or falling through suffocation, were trampled to death or dangerously hurt. During this dreadful scene the exertions of Mr. De Camp, the manager, to preserve those exposed to it, and quiet the alarm, were most praiseworthy and incessant. He ordered the door leading from the slips to the carpenter's loft to be opened, and another means of exit being thus presented, great numbers passed out of the gallery unhurt. The crowd being thus drawn off from the stairs, the pressure in that part was somewhat removed and an opportunity was afforded of raising up and removing many of those unfortunate individuals who had been thrown down. In this humane effort Mr. De Camp was particularly active, and assisted in bearing the bodies into the carpenter's loft, whence they were taken down to the stage. Medical assistance was instantly procured, and every means were used that the case would allow, but with many, all efforts were unavailing. Whilst this was passing within, the scene on the outside was most heart-rending; females screaming and wringing their hands for the friends they had lost, or whose fate they were entirely ignorant of, whilst every now and then the sight of some inanimate body borne away on men's shoulders to some neighbouring house, gave a melancholy assurance that there was but too much reason for alarm. The news spread rapidly through the town, and an immense crowd instantly collected round the theatre, anxious to learn the extent of the calamity. The feeling of sorrow excited on the occasion was most intense, and was greatly heightened by the occasional passage of a dead body carried away on a board and covered over with a sheet—thus giving a melancholy termination to an evening which had probably been anticipated by many of the sufferers as one of unmingled pleasure and enjoyment. The crowd did not disperse till late. By this dreadful catastrophe seven individuals perished. Mrs. Robson, wife of Mr. Riddell Robson, builder, Westgate-street; Mary Johnson, aged 16 years, milliner, of the Manor-chare; Isabella Parkinson, aged 11 years, adopted child of Mrs. Green, Pilgrim-street; Thomas Handyside, aged 20 years, son of Mr. Cuthbert Handyside, bookbinder; and John Jonathan Wilkinson, son of Mr. Wilkinson, veterinary surgeon, Pilgrim-street, all of Newcastle. Dorothy Heaton, aged 17 years, daughter of Mr. George Heaton, tailor; and Mr. John Edwards, both of Gateshead. The check-taker had opened the upper barrier, and in his endeavour to open the second, as above stated, was thrown down the stairs. It was thought fortunate that he did not succeed, or the mischief would have been more dreadful, by a large body of people being dashed down the steep stairs below the barrier. Besides the seven persons killed, the following received very serious injuries:—Mrs. Edwards,

daughter in law to the deceased John Edwards; Roger Lawson, painter, Percy street; Mr. Gallon, flour dealer, Gateshead; a youth, a nephew of Mrs. Niel, publican, Manor chare; Thomas Scott, joiner, of the Windmill hills; Ralph Grahame, clerk to Welch and Co.; Henry, son of Hans Sloan, painter; Ann Fawcett, niece of Mrs. Askew, Flesh market, and Thomas Brown, second son of Mr. John Brown, builder, Vine Lane, who had four ribs broken from the back bone. Mrs. Robson was killed in the arms of her husband, who was himself much hurt.—*Local Papers.*

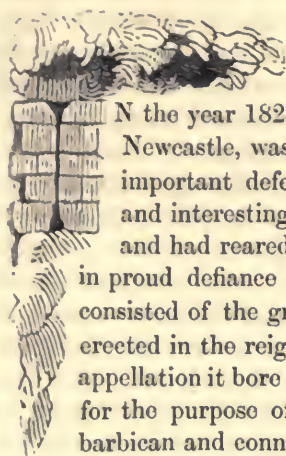
1823 (Feb. 20).—Died, Mr. Henry Taylor of North Shields, author of several valuable publications in connection with maritime affairs. Mr. Taylor used the sea twenty-two years, during twelve of which he commanded ships, mostly in the coal trade, that best nursery for seamen, and since the year 1772, had been employed on shore as ship and insurance broker. During this time, having occasion to adjust many averages and losses, the hardships and sufferings of seamen, the means of alleviating them, and of preventing the loss of so many valuable lives, became subjects of deep consideration with him. The dreadful loss which occurred on the coast of Norfolk in 1789, (see Oct. that year), had thrown the ship owners of the north into the greatest consternation, and almost every one's mind was turned to the consideration of means to prevent the like calamity in future. At this momentous time Mr. Taylor produced a plan for making Hasbro' Gatt a safe night passage, by placing two leading lights near Hasbro' church, and a floating light at the north-end of the Newarp-sand. The ship owners of Stockton, Whitby, Scarborough, Hull, and London, united with those of Newcastle in an application to the Trinity house for the immediate execution of Mr. Taylor's plan, which was carried into effect, without the slightest alteration, in the autumn of 1790; and the most beneficial consequences have resulted therefrom. Few, if any, ships have been lost there since, and it is now found to be a wide, clear, and safe *night passage*. The want of a safe night passage into Yarmouth Roads, or through Hasbro' Gatt had long been severely felt; ships that could not save daylight into the roads, or through the Gatt, were obliged to anchor under Winterton, or lay-to under sail till day. To risk a winter night in such a situation, was the dread of the boldest seaman, and for a large fleet to lay-to from two o'clock in the afternoon until eight the next morning (as has frequently been the case), was not less dangerous. Encouraged by the success of his plan for lighting Hasbro Gatt, Mr. Taylor suggested the utility of a floating light at the north-end of the Goodwin sands, which was adopted by the Trinity-house, as soon as com-

municated in 1791, as was also his plan in 1795, for a floating light at the east-end of the sunk-sand, to facilitate the passage up and down the Swin, and through the king's channel. In 1806, Mr. Taylor directed the attention of the ship-owners of Shields to the bad situation of the leading lights in that harbour, and in consequence of his suggestions, an act of parliament was obtained for the building of the present light-houses. As a remuneration for the services rendered by Mr. Taylor to the shipping interest in general, and in consideration of the expense he had incurred in the furtherance of his plans, he received the following sums at different periods:—Lloyd's coffee-house, £200. Chartered companies, £100. Corporation of Newcastle, £100. Trinity house, Newcastle, £50. Ship-owners of North Shields, £250. And from the corporation of the Trinity-house, London, an annuity of £100 per annum. He also received £129 from a few friends in London, Liverpool, Darlington, and Stockton. With these liberal donations, which however he did not receive till late in life, he was enabled to free himself from serious pecuniary embarrassments, incurred in the prosecution of his benevolent designs.—*Mem. of H. Taylor.*

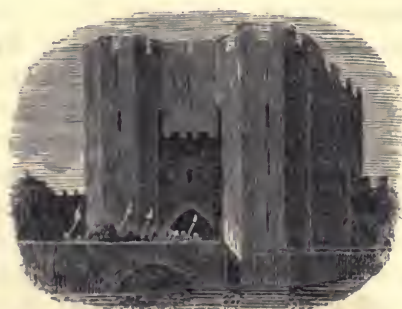
1823 (Feb. 21).—An explosion of inflammable air took place in Ouston colliery, near Chester-le-street, by which four men were killed, and two severely burnt.—*Local Papers.*

March 3.—A most violent gale of wind was experienced in Newcastle and its neighbourhood, which damaged many roofs of houses, and blew down chimneys; trees were also torn up by the roots. Three of the vanes on the small pinnacles of St. Nicholas' church steeple were blown down, and part of the fine but decayed tracery in the large Gothic window, in the north transept of that church, was blown in. The four pinnacles of the new church at Heworth were blown off, and two of them passed through the roof. At North Shields, the family of Dr. Oxley were thrown into great alarm by a stack of chimneys falling through the skylight, and breaking in the floors. Happily no injury was sustained.—*Ibid.*

March 20.—A most splendid fancy dress ball and supper was given by the gentlemen bachelors of Newcastle (47) to the ladies and gentlemen in that town and neighbourhood, which took place at the Assembly-rooms, when four hundred and sixty-seven ladies and gentlemen, attired in all the splendour, brilliancy, and variety, that taste could devise or money purchase, crowded the suite of apartments. The assemblage presented a view of all the dresses of Europe, ancient and modern, and of many of those of the other quarters of the globe. So splendid an entertainment was never before seen in Newcastle.—*Ibid.*



IN the year 1823, to the great regret of the inhabitants of Newcastle, was demolished the New-gate, one of the most important defences of that ancient town. This venerable and interesting structure is replete with historic interest, and had reared its bold and massive front for many centuries in proud defiance of our northern foes. When first built it consisted of the greater or inner gate, and was most probably erected in the reign of William Rufus.* It is not known what appellation it bore at this time;† but previous to the year 1390, for the purpose of strengthening the old or former gate, a barbican and connecting walls were erected on its north front, and being called the “New Gate”‡ gave name to the whole



THE ORIGINAL GATE (1330).—Designed from various authorities.

* It was probably part of the original wall of Newcastle; both from its own architectural character and from its resembling and adjoining the wall in the church yard of St. Andrew, which is confessedly of the time of William II.

† Froissart mentions that the bishop of Durham when going to the relief of the English army at Otterburn, in 1388, passed through “La Porte de Berwick.” Now this *may* have been the name of the elder gate; but it is at least as probable that this eminent writer meant the gate on the road to Berwick, as that this was the permanent designation of the building, for it must be borne in mind that Froissart was not a native historian, consequently we can hardly expect him to descend to such minute particulars. Yet as New Gate lay in the direction of Otterburn, it is almost certain that it was the gate through which the prelate would march. Under all the circumstances perhaps it may be as well provisionally to name it “Berwick Gate,” until more conclusive evidence may be adduced.

‡ In the Tinmouth chartulary at Northumberland House, it occurs (1390) under its present appellation, “Tenementum extra le Newjate,” evidently implying that it was a later erection than another, elder one, and also that the new erection existed before the

erection, a title which it has ever since retained. In 1399, Newcastle was made a county of itself, and taking charge of its own prisoners, the towers of the elder gate were used as the gaol.* Having formerly belonged to the county of Northumberland, its prisoners as well as the delinquents of the town were probably confined together in the Castle.† In this use the gate continued until our times when the juries of both town and county at the spring assizes of 1820, presented it “as out of repair, and inconvenient, insufficient, and insecure.” An act was therefore obtained in 1822 for the demolition of the present and the erection of new prisons. In pursuance of this decision the felons were removed to the cells of the county courts, and the debtors to the castle, and in despite of the determined and resolute opposition of the inhabitants and the numerous petitions both in prose and poetry which were presented to the corporate body, workmen commenced the demolition of the upper part of the barbican on the second day of April. The removal rapidly proceeded, and on the 10th, the statue representing King James I.‡ which stood over the



affixed date. A further proof is deducible from three shields of arms over the gateway of this “Newgate.” St. George’s Cross, The arms of the Town, and those of England, in which latter the fleurs-de-lys are semée: now these were reduced to three in the time of Henry V. (1413-22) consequently it has at least existed before such reduction.

* Brand.

† In a writing, 9th Ed. III. (1336) is mentioned a place in Newcastle called the “Aldegaole.” Whether this refers to the castle or to some other erection it is in vain to conjecture.

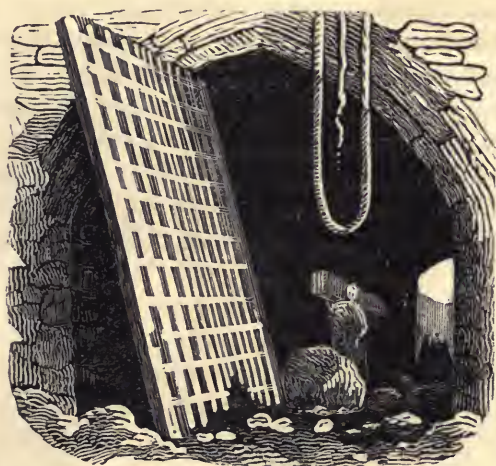
‡ Undoubtedly placed there, on or shortly after the accession of that monarch in 1603. But some losing sight of the evidence adduced by the armorial bearings, have supposed that the building itself possesses no higher date, because it bore a statue of James.



gateway was removed in a sadly mutilated state to the castle, where it now lies in four pieces. By the end of May the greatest part of the barbican had been removed, when the ruins presented the appearance represented in the above view from the north east. In June the demolition of the east wing of the inner gate was commenced, and was speedily followed by the west wing (both erected between the years 1702-6) with the remains of the barbican. The original gate was thus nearly isolated, as the accompanying view from the south east will shew. And now another vigorous but unsuccessful effort was made by the lovers of antiquity to save this venerable monument of ancient times from destruction. Among other suggestions it was proposed to



form carriage roads and foot paths on each side of the gate, and to convert the interior into halls for those incorporated companies which had no regular place of meeting ; but the commissioners for building a new gaol, being authorised to apply the old materials to the new buildings, resolved upon its entire destruction. At this time a clever *jeu d'esprit*, was privately circulated, purporting to be a petition of the inhabitants of Newgate to the mayor praying for the preservation of the ancient building ; and which was understood to be from the pen of a gentleman, well known for his poetic talent, and his many local and humourous productions. It was allowed to remain until September when it also fell a sacrifice to the spirit of the age. Part of the walls were blasted with gunpowder ; whilst other parts (on removing the facing stones) appeared as heaps of rubbish. The

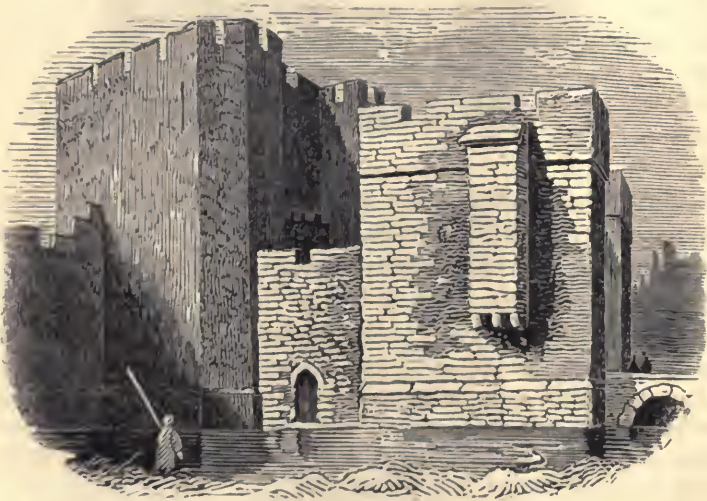


portcullis which remained here until the final demolition of the gate was the last existing in Newcastle.* It was of oak, with spikes strongly shod with iron, and of an enormous weight. While hanging

* The portcullis is now at Blagdon. Besides the defences already mentioned both gates were provided with machicollations, from which the garrison annoyed the enemy after passing the first gate. These were parts of the fortress made to project by means of corbels, having open intervals through which melted lead, boiling water, stones and arrows were discharged upon the heads of the assailants. Large weights too, were often fastened to ropes, or chains, by which, after they had taken effect, they were retracted by the besieged. In the ardour of success it often happened that a large troop of the besiegers rushing forward through the massive archway, were cut off from their companions in arms, by the sudden lowering of the portcullis, which was so strongly constructed as to defy attack, or removal, unless the stone work was broken down.



in the groove in which it slid, the spikes hung below the top of the arch way, and had at some time been sawn off to the shape of the arch, probably to facilitate the passage of laden carts. In this part too, were found many cannon balls of large size and deep sunk into the wall. All was now removed except about ten feet in height, or one story, and this followed soon after, together with the guard-house, which adjoined the west wing of the structure; and the street being levelled and paved no traces exist of this once massive and extensive fortification. The following restored view represents the New Gate, about A. D. 1400, and is designed from plans, old views, descriptions, the lately existent remains and other competent authorities. —*MS. Col.*



CHAPTER XII.



EARLY in the year 1823, as some workmen were digging in a field adjoining the turnpike road at Halton Chesters (Roman station *Hunnum*), they discovered the foundations of a stone wall, six feet thick; this they traced about forty yards in a north and south direction, without reaching either extremity. A hypocaust was also found, fifteen feet square, the floor laid with Roman tiles. The flues were found very perfect. Several openings were found into a subterraneous passage, supposed to be a sewer, and which was explored above one hundred feet. A quantity of bones, both human and others, horns of different kinds, and earthen vessels with inscriptions nearly obliterated, have been dug up.—*Local Papers*.

April.—A grey mare, belonging to Mr. Lawson of Lartington, near Barnardcastle, being at Durham fair for sale, a person wishing to purchase her, agreed with Mr. Lawson's servant to ride her a little distance on the road between Durham and Sunderland-bridge, by way of trial; and while doing so, the mare in high condition, ran away with him, at so furious a rate, that on coming to the end of Sunderland-bridge, she was not able to make the sharp turn to go along the bridge, but leaped over the battlement, and both rider and mare were precipitated into the river on the west side of the bridge; and what is most unaccountable to relate, both escaped without any injury.—*Bingley's Horses*.

The beginning of this year, Carliol-street was commenced building. previous to this it was a field called "The Carliol Croft."—*Local Papers*.

1823 (May 20).—The foundation stone of a United Secession church was laid in Carliol-street, Newcastle, by the rev. Mr. Gillan, who addressed the audience previous to the stone being deposited, and concluded the ceremony with an impressive prayer.—December 25th, 1823, it was opened for divine worship with three excellent discourses, by the rev. J. Harper, of Leith, and the rev. R. Hunter, of Carlisle, when collections to the amount of £22 6s. 10d. were made in aid of the funds. This congregation formerly worshipped in Sallyport. The register of baptisms extending from 1759, to 1785—of births and baptisms extending from 1785 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com. &c.*

May.—The Society of arts presented the large silver medal to Mr. Henry Marshall, of Newcastle, for his improved melting pots for brass-founders and steel-makers.—*Local Papers.*

June 4.—The ceremony of laying the foundation stone of a new gaol and house of correction in Carliol street, Newcastle, took place at two o'clock in the afternoon. Robert Bell, esq., mayor, preceded by the regalia of the corporation, and accompanied by the recorder, aldermen, and sheriff, and the commissioners representing the four parishes, viz.:—Mr. William Coates and Mr. Francis Ewart, for St. Nicholas'; Mr. Thomas Milner and Mr. William Brownsword Proctor, for All Saints'; Mr. George Anderson, for St. John's; and Mr. Thomas Mackford, and Mr. Thomas Graham, for St. Andrews', went in procession from the Guildhall to the site of the building; a glass vase containing all the coins struck during the reign of his majesty George IV., was deposited in a cavity of the stone, by William Boyd, esq., the treasurer to the commissioners, after which, a brass plate, bearing an appropriate inscription, was inserted. The mayor then proceeded to lay the stone with a silver trowel, which he afterwards presented to Mr. John Dobson, the architect. He then addressed the concourse of spectators with great energy, in language befitting the occasion; this was received with nine hearty cheers, and the completion of the ceremony was announced by the discharge of the artillery from the castle, and the ringing of the bells of the several churches. The mayor afterwards entertained the magistrates and the commissioners at the mansion house.—*Ibid.*

June 4.—The foundation stone of a new quay, connecting the eastern end of the Low street of North Shields, with the ancient bridge over the Pow Burn, at the Low Lights, was laid. The ceremony was numerously attended, and afterwards a large company dined at Mr. Peaseod's, the White Swan inn. The carriage road along this quay was named the Union way.—*Ibid.*

June 16.—Whilst some workmen were digging in the ruins of the ancient dormitories of Tynemouth priory, overlooking Prior's haven,

for the purpose of making a receptacle for gunpowder, a flat stone was turned up, which had been placed with the letters downwards, as if it had been wrought into the structure a second time. A part of the stone was broken off at each end, and the letters lost; those remaining were almost illegible. Another stone, which looked like the upper end of a hoodstone (or fire-place hudstone), had some carvings, or ornamental scrolls round the semicircular end, and what may have been the front. Pieces of small round columns, and parts of stones belonging to groin work, were also turned up amongst the cement of these ancient walls. The half-moon battery, erected during the great rebellion, is within a few yards of this place.—*Local Papers*.

1823 (June 19).—A most melancholy accident happened at Walker colliery, near Newcastle. An air-course having to be opened, some workmen were set to open an old shaft, which had been filled up for twenty five years. The length of time it had been filled up, induced a belief that the earth, &c., filling it, had become firmly united to the sides, and in consequence, the under viewer and five other men unfortunately proceeded to remove the earth from the bottom of the shaft, at the same time that others were working at the top of it. They had not worked long, when the whole mass slid down, and buried them under it. Men were immediately set to work to dig them out, when they were found in a shockingly mangled state all quite dead.—*Ibid*.

June 21.—About two o'clock on the morning, the brass foundry of Messrs. Jobson and Brunting, in Forth street, Newcastle, and the adjoining nail-factory of Flintoff and Co., were discovered to be on fire, which by great exertions were extinguished with less injury than was expected.—*Ibid*.



June.—This month, a very curious urn of earthenware was discovered by some workmen employed by Mr. John Grey, of Millfield Hill, in Northumberland, in removing a mass of large stones that had obstructed the ploughing of a field. The urn was set upon a flat stone about four feet below the surface, and surrounded by soft alluvial soil, a large flat sandstone was carefully placed over it; and above all, an accumulation of whinstones, some of them of a size inconvenient to remove, to the extent

of from 80 to 100 cart loads. The urn contained a quantity of soft dust or powder, of a brown colour, and many small pieces of bones that had not been completely consumed by fire. Those of the head

were the most entire, especially parts of the skull and jaw bones, in which, although the teeth were gone, the sockets that had contained them, remained as regular as the cells in a honey comb. From the size of the tumulus, and the pains with which the ashes had been deposited in it, there is little reason to doubt that they were the remains of some person of distinction in his day and generation. Annexed is an exact wood cut, by the late Thomas Bewick, of this urn, from a drawing by Mrs. Grey.—*Mackenzie's Northd.*

1823 (July 9).—A large, commodious, and elegant building, erected by the society of Friends, at the head of Nile-street, Sunderland, was opened for public worship, a large concourse of strangers, attending from various parts of the country.—*Local Papers.*

July 11.—Died, in Old Elvet, in the city of Durham, aged 92 years, Mr. James Brown, commonly called the *Durham Poet*. Mr. B., who was a native of Scotland, lived many years in the Side, Newcastle, where he followed the business of a tailor; and used to attend the fairs in the neighbourhood with clothes made up for that purpose. Here his first wife died; after which he married an old lady, not devoid of eccentricities, but possessed of some property in Durham, on which account he removed to that city to reside. Mr. B. was the author of various pamphlets, Poetical, Scriptural, &c. The last which he laid before the public was a collection of doggerel poetry printed in Newcastle, in 1820, to which was prefixed a portrait of himself, sounding a trumpet to alarm sinners; it is a whole length, cut in wood by Bewick. Mrs. Brown's died June 27th, 1824, in Gilligate, Durham, aged 80 years. She was a most singular woman; and in her religion, like her eccentric husband, a follower of Johanna Southcott. She pretended to have had numerous visions concerning a future state, all of which she firmly believed.—*Ibid.*

July 26.—Grace Griffin was executed at Berwick, for the murder of her husband, John Griffin. An immense concourse of spectators assembled on this occasion, as there had not been an execution in Berwick since May 10th, 1758, when Margaret Drydon was executed for the murder of her bastard child.—*Ibid.*

July 29.—The cordwainers of Newcastle, celebrated the festival of St. Crispin, by holding a coronation of their patron saint, and afterwards walking in procession through several streets of that town. The coronation took place in the court of the Peace and Unity Hospital, at the Westgate, at eleven o'clock, and soon after twelve, the procession moved forward through the principal streets of that town and Gateshead, and finally halted at the sign of the Chancellor's Head, in Newgate street, where the members of the trade partook of a dinner provided for the occasion. A great number of people assem-

bled to witness the procession, as there had not been a similar exhibition since the year 1789.—*Local Papers.*

1823 (Aug. 12).—Died, in Gateshead poor-house, Mary Robson, aged 103 years. Two years before she underwent an amputation of her arm, at the Infirmary, Newcastle, having been run over by a coal waggon.—*Ibid.*

This month, a human skull and some bones, much in decay, were dug up by the side of Fulwell hill, near Sunderland.—*Ibid.*

September 1.—Died, at Whitton, near Rothbury, Isabella Burn, aged 103 years.—*Ibid.*

September 12.—The inhabitants of Newcastle and Gateshead were gratified with a novel and interesting spectacle, in a procession through the principal streets, of the workmen employed in several of the glass-houses in that and the neighbouring towns. The morning was ushered in with the ringing of bells, and notice of the intended procession having been previously circulated, numbers of people crowded the streets to witness the pleasing spectacle. The yard at the Skinner's burn, belonging to Messrs. Clayton, was the place appointed for the assembling of those who had to form the procession. Here having been marshalled in due order, a little after twelve o'clock it moved forward along the Close, amid the cheers of the assembled multitude, the firing of cannon, and the ringing of bells. It was preceded by the band of the Tyne Hussars, and was composed of the workmen of the Northumberland, the South Shields, the Wear (Sunderland), and the Durham and British (Gateshead), the Stourbridge (Gateshead), and the North Shields glass companies, arranged according to the seniority of their respective houses, each of which was distinguished by appropriate flags. The sky was clear, and the rays of the sun falling upon the glittering column, gave it a richness and grandeur in appearance that defy description. The hat of almost every person in it was decorated with a glass feather, whilst a glass star sparkled on their breasts, and a chain or collar of variegated glass hung round the neck; some of them also wore sahes round their waists. Each man carried in his hand a staff, on a cross piece on the top of which was displayed one or more curious or beautiful specimens of their art. As these were thus carried above the heads of the crowd, a full view of them was afforded to every one, and the procession was relieved from the inconvenience which might otherwise have been experienced from the populace crowding round it to obtain a sight of the different vessels. These consisted not only of a profusion of decanters, glasses, goblets, jugs, bowls, dishes, &c., which may be called the staple articles of the trade, and which exhibited an endless variety of elegant shape

and exquisite workmanship, but also of several others, remarkable either for their grandeur and excellence of work, or for the curious nature of their construction: amongst the latter were two elegant bird cages, containing birds, which sang at periods during the procession; a salute was fired several times from a fort mounted with glass cannon, to the astonishment of the spectators; and a glass bugle, which sounded the halts and played several marches, was also much admired for its sweetness and correctness of tone. Several elegant specimens of stained glass were exhibited, and many of the men wore glass hats and carried glass swords. When the procession arrived at the Mansion-house it halted, where a salute was fired from the glass cannon; the procession then moved forward, passing along the bridge to Gateshead, and up the streets of that town as far as Mr. Price's house; it then returned and paraded through the principal streets of Newcastle, and finally halted at Mr. Thomas Heron's the Cock inn, at the head of the Side, where the men belonging to four of the houses were to dine. Here the brittle fort fired a salute, as it had done several times before. The men of the two remaining houses then proceeded to their respective places of entertainment, one to Mrs. Wallace's, Nag's head, foot of the Butcher's bank, the other to Mr. Methuen's, Gateshead.—*Local Papers.*



THE NAG'S HEAD, BUTCHER BANK (1823).

Said to have been a former Mansion-house.

1823 (Sept. 24).—An elegant silver cup was given to Mr. Thomas Forsyth, sergeant at mace, by several of the drapers in Newcastle, for his exertions as a police officer in that town. The cup bore an appropriate inscription, and was presented by Mr. Robert Oliver, on behalf of the subscribers, in a neat speech, which Mr. Forsyth acknowledged in return. The party partook of a supper at the house of Mr. Teasdale, sign of the Dun cow, Grinding chare, Quayside, and spent the evening with the greatest conviviality.—*Local Papers.*



IN GRINDING CHARE, NEWCASTLE (1843).

September 26.—Died, at Hedston Link house, near Warkworth, Mrs. Jane Young, aged 105 years.—*Ibid.*

October 23.—Died, at West Thirston, near Felton, Northumberland, Mr. Charles Gibson. Without any previous indisposition, he dropped down at his own door, and instantly expired. In early life he learnt the trade of a linen-weaver, in which he was very proficient; but taking a dislike to the business, he gave it up, and, without any instruction whatever, commenced making musical instruments, such as small pipes, bagpipes, violins, clarionets, &c. He also made telescopes, which he completed with admirable dexterity; and the late Dr. Herschel, the astronomer, did him the honour to inspect and purchase some of his making.—*Gent's Mag.*

1823 (Oct. 31).—Died, in Gateshead poor-house, Jane Downie, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers*.

October 31.—A parhelion, or the phenomenon of three suns, appeared at Calvert's farm, near Gretham, in the county of Durham, at 12 o'clock at noon.—*Brewster's Stockton*.

November 2.—A fire was discovered, about four o'clock on the morning, in the tallow-melting and candle-making house and loft of Mr. Caleb Wilson, in Walton lane, Sunderland. The devouring element raged with great fury for about two hours, when, by the prompt exertions of Mr. Thomas Cook, the engine-keeper, and the ready assistance of the inhabitants in general, the fire was got under, but not until that part of Mr. Wilson's extensive range of warehouses was entirely burnt down, and about half of the stock, &c. therein destroyed.—*Local Papers*.

November 3.—A dreadful explosion of inflammable air took place in the Plain pit of Rainton colliery, in the parish of Houghton-le-Spring, Durham, belonging to the marquis of Londonderry, when fifty-three men and boys perished, and several others were dreadfully hurt, two of whom afterwards died; twelve horses were also killed. A little before eight o'clock, one of the overmen, and soon after, one of the workmen, descended the pit, and succeeded in bringing several of the sufferers to bank; and in the course of the morning the bodies of all who had perished were brought up, with the exception of four, who were in the most distant parts of the mine. The bodies presented a most shocking spectacle, being much burnt, and many of them very much mutilated.—*Ibid*.

1823.—Towards the close of this year, extensive gas-works, on a scale of fifteen to twenty cubic feet of gas, were established in the city of Durham.—*Surtees*.

December 1.—Died, in Alnwick, Miss Hindmarsh, aged 25 years, She was the author of the "Cave of Hoonga, a Tongean Tradition, and other Poems," published at Alnwick, her native town, in 1818. This young lady possessed considerable literary talents, having, at the early age of fifteen, written several of the miscellaneous pieces which compose the above volume.—*Mackenzie*.

December 10.—Soon after eleven o'clock at night, a fire broke out in the engine-house of the saw-mill belonging to Messrs. Brown and son, carpenters, at the head of Northumberland-street, Newcastle, and the wind blowing strong at the time, the fire raged with such fury, that before any engines arrived, the house and machinery were entirely destroyed. By the force of the wind, the sparks were carried into the adjoining stack yard of Mr. Lax, and unfortunately communicated to one of the stacks, which was soon in an entire blaze. By the arri-

val of the engines, and the exertions of the assistants, the other stacks were preserved. Part of the range of work sheds belonging to Mr. Brown were pulled down, to prevent the fire from spreading; but fortunately the flames reached no part of them, or of the great stock of timber lying about. How the fire originated was not known; when first discovered, it had attained no great height, but, from the injudicious bursting open of the doors, the wind soon raised the flames to such an ungovernable height, that in less than an hour, the whole building and machinery were destroyed.—*Local Papers.*

1823 (Dec. 13).—There was an extraordinary parade of the Northumberland and Newcastle volunteer cavalry, on the town moor, Newcastle, for the purpose of presenting their worthy commander, lieutenant-col. Brandling, M. P., of Gosforth house, with a magnificent gold vase, unanimously voted to him by the individuals of that regiment. It was presented by major sir Charles Loraine, bart., who addressed the colonel in a very appropriate speech, to which the colonel made an eloquent reply. At the conclusion of the speeches, there were loud cheerings, which lasted some minutes. This magnificent present is a copy of the celebrated Warwick vase, found in Herculaneum, and now in the possession of the earl of Warwick. With the pedestal, it is nineteen inches in height, and will contain about eight quarts. The weight is upwards of three hundred ounces. It was manufactured under the direction of Messrs. Lewis and Wright, goldsmiths and jewellers, Newcastle. Although it was a cold winter day, with occasional showers, several ladies were present, among whom were Mrs. Brandling, Mrs. Bigge, Mrs. Dixon Brown, Mrs. Dr. Headlam, &c. &c.—*Ibid.*

December 27.—On account of Mr. Thomas Gustard, one of the brethren of St. Edmund's hospital, having attained his 100th year, the rev. John Collinson, rector, celebrated the event by a dinner at the Rectory-house, Gateshead, for all the brethren, the old man sitting at the head of the table, and the rector honouring them with his presence. Mr. Gustard died on the 23rd of March, 1828. at the age of 104.—*Ibid.*

This year, Bishop Auckland Independent chapel was built. The register of births and baptisms containing 8 entries, extends from 1824 to 1834.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

Union-street chapel (Primitive methodists) North Shields, founded. The register of births and baptisms, extending from 1823 to 1837.—*Ibid.*

Primitive methodist chapel, Glebe (parish of Jarrow) South Shields, founded. The register of births and baptisms, extending from 1834 to 1837.—*Ibid.*



TURRETS ON THE WALL OF NEWCASTLE.
Between Morden and Ever Towers (1783).

1823.—Stowell-street, running westward from Heron-street, within the town walls, Newcastle, was this year commenced building.—*Local Papers.*

This year, died, at Hexham, Mrs. E. Carr, aged 104 years.—*Ibid.*

1824.—(Jan. 7).—Died, at Cornsay, in the county of Durham, Mrs. Elizabeth Kirkley, aged 103 years.—*Ibid.*

January 8.—On removing a barrow, consisting of about 500 cart loads of stones, on the farm of Mr. Black, at North Charlton, on the east side of the post road, and about 100 paces from the six mile stone north of Alnwick, two rude sepulchres were found, about seven yards asunder; the first consisted of four stones set on edge, four feet long and two feet broad; these were covered by one large stone. In this sepulchre, which was about four feet from the surface, were found some small bones. The other grave was of larger dimensions, being also formed of stones set on edge, and measuring within, full six feet long, two feet wide, and two and a half deep. The joints were cemented with a kind of blue clay. At the west end of this sepulchre, was a stone placed as a pillow, whereon was found a human skull, measuring nine inches long and seven inches across the temples; the under jaw contained three fresh teeth; there were also leg and feet bones found

in their proper places. In this grave was also found a brass spear, about six inches long in the blade, with two edges and a very sharp point; it had a haft rivetted on to it, apparently of bone, but which soon crumbled to dust. This latter sepulchre was about six feet from the surface, covered with one stone about seven feet long, four feet broad, and about twenty inches thick; these, which were in a rough state, were bedded upon a blue loam or clay. No inscription was observable upon any of the stones. They were afterwards removed to the plantation of Charlton hall, and the spear was sent to John Cay, esq., of Edinburgh, proprietor of the estate.—*Mackenzie*.

1824 (Jan. 17).—Died, at South Shields, Mrs. Dobson, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers*.

January 23.—Hackney coaches were established in Newcastle, and the stand was appointed to be in the square in front of St. Nicholas' church. The fares were appointed by the right worshipful William Wright, esq., the mayor, acting between the proprietors and the public provisionally, untill the rates of fare could be finally settled by the magistrates assembled at the Easter quarter sessions, in pursuance of the local act of parliament for that purpose.—*Ibid*.

January 25.—A very elegant new organ, built and erected by Messrs. Wood and Co., of Edinburgh, was opened at Gateshead church by D. S. Hawks, esq., who kindly volunteered his services on the occasion. A very excellent sermon was preached on the morning by the rev. Charles Thorp, of Ryton, from the 4th verse of the 100th Psalm, after which, a collection of £29 18s. 5d., was made to assist in defraying the expense of the purchase and erection of the organ; and in the evening a very well arranged and suitable sermon, was preached by the reverend John Collinson, of Lamesley, from the 5th chap. 2nd Chron. verses 13 and 14, and a collection of £16 2s. 2d. made. The church was crowded both in the morning and evening, and the instrument gave great satisfaction. The performance was of the most masterly style.—*Ibid*.

February.—Died at Low Gosforth, near Newcastle, Mary Dees, aged upwards of 100 years. A portrait of this centenarian was sketched and also etched by Mr. Parker.—*Ibid*.

February 9.—A fire was discovered raging with great violence in the cabin of the Pomona, captain Pybus, lying on the south side of the river at Newcastle. Considerable damage was done before it was extinguished. The fire originated from the overheating of the cabin stove.—*Ibid*.

February 11.—Died at Greenock, aged 78, Mr. Alexander Cuthell, he performed at the new theatre, in the Castle-yard with Mrs. Best, in 1781, who afterwards shone in the London theatres. This

clever but eccentric man, is said to have ruined himself in fitting up the Castle-garth theatre. Mrs. McGeorge fitted up the theatre in the Moot hall. The scenes were painted by Mr. Waters. At the same time, Mr. Kinlock's (sen.) dancing-school was held in the jury-room.—*Mackenzie*.

1824 (Feb. 14).—The windmill belonging to Mr. George Blaxland, at Carr's hill near Gateshead, was destroyed by fire. The adjoining dwelling-house was saved. How the fire (which took place at night) originated, could not be ascertained, as the mill had not been at work since the morning, and the premises had been examined and appeared secure a short time before the fire was discovered.—*Local Papers*.



February 19.—Died, in Gloucester-place, London, aged 73, sir John Orde, bart., admiral of the red, and vice-president of the naval charitable society. He was the youngest son of John Orde, esq. who lived chiefly at Morpeth, and acted for many years as a magistrate and deputy-lieutenant of the county of Northumberland, by his second wife, Anne, widow of the rev. W. Pye, and was born at Morpeth, Dec. 1752.

Sir John Orde, in 1766, first entered the navy; in 1773, was made a lieutenant; in 1777, promoted to the rank of commander; in 1778, post captain; and in 1783, he was appointed governor of the island of Dominica. In 1790, he was created a baronet. In 1795, he was promoted to a flag; in 1797, he was made vice-admiral of the blue; in 1801, vice-admiral of the white; in 1804, vice-admiral of the red; Nov. 9, 1805, admiral of the blue squadron, and in 1807, when his nephew, the present lord Bolton, was called to the house of peers, in consequence of the demise of his father, sir John Orde succeeded him in the representation of the borough of Yarmouth, Hampshire.—*Gent's Mag.*

March 9.—The town of Sunderland was first lighted with gas, the brilliancy of which was much admired by a large concourse of spectators.—*Local Papers*.

March 16.—The first general meeting of the literary, scientific, and mechanical institution, of Newcastle, was held in the Joiners hall, Mr. Robert Robson, in the chair. After some discussion, rules were adopted, and two secretaries, with eighteen members for an acting committee were chosen. April 27th, the library was opened in a room in Pilgrim street, which had been occupied as an auction mart. Most of the books had been presented. The first monthly

meeting of this institution, the rev. William Turner in the chair, was held May 11th, 1824. This institution, which is at present in a very flourishing state, is held in very spacious apartments in a building fitted up for the purpose near the east end of Blackett street, it was opened on the evening of May 4th 1829, on which occasion the room was crowded to excess.—*Local Papers*.

1824 (March).—The foundation stone of a new school-room, at Warkworth, for boys, to be built by subscription, capable of containing 100 children, to be instructed on the Madras system, and in the principles of the church of England, was laid by the rev. T. Winscom, the vicar.—*Ibid*.

March.—Some masons working in a quarry at Cowpen High house, near Blyth, discovered, inclosed in a block of freestone, two petrified fish, apparently, from their shape and dimensions (about two and a half feet in length), of the salmon tribe, though the scales were larger than belong to that description of fish. The impression of the scales was left on the stone in which they were found.—*Ibid*.

April.—The beginning of this month, as the workmen were cutting a drain, a little in advance of the south side of the castle, at Newcastle, they discovered several human skeletons, some at the depth of eight feet, and others at the depth of three feet from the surface. Two were found at about eighteen inches from each other, lying with the feet to the east, and secured from the earth by rude sepulchres, the bottoms of which were formed of thin stones and lime, and the sides built up of stones, with stones laid upon the tops to support the superincumbent earth. A skull of one of these had a round perforation in the top, as if made by a ball; the under jaw was attached to the skull, and had the teeth quite perfect; those in the upper jaw were also perfect, except two or three in the front, which the workmen said they had knocked out. It is very natural to suppose that these must have been men of rank, from the manner of their interment, as the other bodies which were found, seemed to have been promiscuously huddled together.—*Local Rec*.

April 5.—Died at North Shields, aged 71 years, Mr. James Pringle, a most profound mathematician. The small share of school education Mr. Pringle had, he obtained at Cambo, in Northumberland. He was almost self-taught, having acquired a knowledge of the French, Latin, and Greek languages. At one period of his life he was an assistant for the "Nautical Ephemeris," under the late astronomer-royal, Dr. Maskelyne. He corresponded with the late Dr. Hutton on scientific subjects. Mr. Pringle was for twenty-two years vice-treasurer to the North Shields Subscription library, and was at all times an unassuming man.—*Local Rec*.

1824 (April 5).—The Horticultural and Botanical Society of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, was established. The first prize exhibition was held January 14, 1825.—*Local Papers*.

April 15.—Died, at Witton Gilbert, Durham, Ann Hall, widow, aged 100 years.—*Ibid*.



April 20.—Died, in Bridge-street, Blackfriars, London, the rev. Robert Clarke, M. A., rector of Walwick, and lecturer of Hexham, aged 53 years. May 1st, his remains arrived at Newcastle, and on the 3rd, the mournful procession was joined by several private carriages, and set out with considerable heraldic splendour for Hexham, displaying a great number of banners and escutcheons. The day was one continued storm of wind and rain, but notwithstanding, as the procession approached its destination, it was met and joined by the members of the different trades, and almost all the inhabitants of Hexham, in deep mourning, to testify their respect for the deceased. The shops were shut, the bells tolled at intervals, and the throng of people, accumulating as the hearse advanced, produced an effect of imposing and melancholy awe, which was much heightened by the solemn order of the procession, the rear of it being composed of a great number of respectable gentlemen of Hexham and its neighbourhood, who walked in pairs. The funeral service was performed by the rev. C. Lee, and after a solemn dirge on the organ, Luther's sublime hymn was impressively chanted. By the death of this great and good man, the town and neighbourhood of Hexham suffered an almost irreparable loss, and numerous odes, elegies, &c. &c., were written on the occasion. As a proof of the general estimation in which this gentleman was held, a sermon was preached on the occasion, in the Presbyterian chapel, Hexham, on Sunday May 9th, 1824, by the rev. James Richardson, from 2nd Samuel, 3rd chap. 38 verse, and which was published by request.—*Local Rec.*

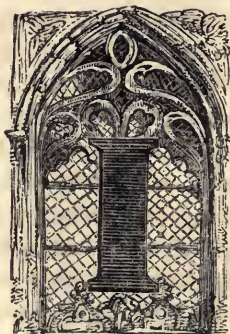
April 21.—The barns, stables, cow-houses, and sheds, on the farm at South Acomb, near Bywell, the property of T. W. Beaumont, esq., M. P., were entirely destroyed by fire. The dwelling house and a cottage were all that escaped the devouring element. The tenants had two calves, a cart, and a considerable quantity of implements of husbandry consumed, also a thrashing machine, and sixty bolls of oats were destroyed.—*Local Papers*.

April 23.—Mr. George Gilmore, the surveyor of the turnpike-road

between Durham and Newcastle, having discovered that a sprinkling of the oil of salt was most effectual in laying the dust of roads for a considerable time without a repetition, tried the experiment at Birtley-lane, and on the McAdamised part of Dean-street, &c., all which confirmed the value of the discovery.—*Local Rec.*



THE NORTH TRANSEPT OF THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS, NEWCASTLE (1825).



IN consequence of the injury received by the fine old window of the South Transept of St. Nicholas's church, Newcastle, from the effects of a high wind on the 24th of February, 1818, it was found necessary to prop it on the inside to prevent its entire fall; and being rendered still more ruinous by another storm on March 3rd, 1823, further exertions were made to support it until the material for a new window could be prepared. On inspection it was found that the walls were so much decayed that the original idea of removing the mere window should be extended to the

clearance of the whole north end, which with the exception of the foundations, and an apartment beneath, was to be effected. On the 27th of April, 1824, therefore, the workmen commenced operations. While they were thus engaged, they found a stone of a singular description. It bore the semblance in strongly carved work of the representations usually given of his Satanic majesty. There is a very striking likeness between this sculpture and another on the principal entrance door of Durham cathedral. It is difficult perhaps, if not impossible to assign any age for this curiosity, but it is probable that at some period it was used in a different and elder building, the face being turned inward, as if to hide it from observation, and to make it serve a purpose in common with the other stones. Care was taken in the erection of the new window and its surrounding masonry to follow the style of the original, and it is but due to the parties who superintended the restoration, and especially to the taste of the rev. John Smith, the then vicar, to confess that their exertions have been crowned with success. Its width is traversed by five lofty mullions, from the heads of which expand a variety of tracery of the most delightful and elegant forms. This together with several improvements in the interior of the transept, were completed by the end of June in the same year. The initial letter at the commencement of this record, represents one of the smaller windows in St. George's porch, on the south side of this transept.—*M.S. Col.*

1824.—About this period, Mr. Robert Robson, the occupier, dug out of the ruins of Cartington castle, Northumberland, a stone with the date 1030; a mutilated figure of the Blessed Trinity; a figure of St. Anthony; the top of a beautiful Gothic window, &c.; with what appeared to have been a font or stoup for holy water. These circumstances are perhaps sufficient to prove, that near the front or south of the castle, has anciently stood a church or chapel, now totally buried in oblivion. The castle was formerly possessed by an ancient family of its own name. John de Cartington occurs in the 15th century as a knight of the shire.—*Mackenzie.*

April.—A great number of oak coffins were found in a tract of sloping boggy ground, about three hundred yards north of the farm house of the Eals, in the Manor of Featherstone, Northumberland. The coffins are made of round boles of oak, riven in two and fastened down again with an oaken peg at each end. They were discovered in making drains, when several were found lying north and south very near each other, and about five feet below the surface. Afterwards, in making further researches, lord Wallace had a bore rod put down here in ten different places, and it touched coffins, nine times. They were all imbedded in fine blue clay: but such as were found in the



wet mossy ground were in better preservation than those in drier places. Some of them are preserved at Featherstone castle: and one of them attracts the attention of curiosity in the collection of antiquities belonging to the society of Antiquaries at Newcastle.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

1824 (May 13).—The foundation stone of a new church, dedicated to St. John, on Gateshead Fell, was laid by the rev. John Collinson, A. M., rector of Gateshead. As is customary on such occasions, the coinage of the reigning monarch, from a penny, in silver, to a sovereign, was deposited in a handsome flint-glass bottle, which bottle was placed in a cavity in the foundation stone, along with a neat silver tablet, bearing an inscription which set forth the name of the rev. gentleman who performed the ceremony, the dignities, &c., of the rev. diocesan (the lord bishop of Durham), the names of the trustees—sir R. S. Hawks, knt., Matthew Atkinson, John Barras, Michael Hall, and Henry Smith, esqrs., and of the architect, Mr. Ions, as well as the day of the month, and the year of the reign of his majesty George IV. After the stone was deposited, the rector put up an excellent and appropriate prayer which was listened to with becoming attention. On the conclusion of the ceremony a salute of nine guns was fired from a temporary battery, which was answered by nine cheers from the populace. Afterwards a large party partook of refreshment most liberally and hospitably provided in a tent by James Hutchinson, esq., of Sheriff-hill. August 30, 1825, the church and cemetery were consecrated by the lord bishop of Oxford. Oct. 30, the church was opened for divine service, when a sermon was preached by the rev. John Collinson, A. M., rector of Gateshead. April 15, 1827, an excellent organ was opened in this church, on which occasion Mr. D. S. Hawks presided.—*Local Papers.*

May 27.—The rev. John Collinson, rector, the four-and-twenty, the churchwardens, and a great number of other inhabitants, accompanied by Mr. Forster, steward to Cuthbert Ellison, esq., M. P., lord of the manor, perambulated the boundaries of the parish of

Gateshead. They commenced at the Blue-stone, on Tyne bridge, at nine o'clock, attended by two constables with flags, and two excellent pipers, and were greeted at their departure with a salute of guns from Price's glass-works, and a peal of bells from St. Mary's church. They proceeded by the northern and the western boundaries to Wreckington, where refreshments were provided for them, and an excellent band afforded amusement for the ladies in the dance. Hence the procession moved along the southern and eastern boundary to the river Tyne, where the constables and pipers took boat, and proceeded to the bridge. A medal was struck on this occasion, bearing on the obverse, within a circle of dots, the arms of Gateshead, round which "Gateshead Parish Boundary Token;" and on the reverse, within a circle of dots, "The Rev. John Collinson, Rector," round which, "Perambulated 27th May, 1824." As there had not been a perambulation since the year 1792, a great number of persons attended. The ceremony ended at about half-past four o'clock, when the party sat down to an excellent dinner, at the Black bull inn, sir R. S. Hawks, knt., in the chair.—*Local Papers*.

1824.—Shincliffe bridge, in the county of Durham, having been indicted as being too narrow and out of repair, the present bridge was commenced in June, this year, under the professional superintendence of Mr. Bonomi. It was rendered passable in Sept. 1826, and consists of two flat elliptic arches, of sixty feet span each. The whole sum expended by the county was 7,056l. 7s. 5d.—*Surtees*.

June.—The sexton of the church at Barnard Castle, Durham, dug up, in the church-yard this year, a Roman coin, nearly the size of a sovereign. It is in a state of good preservation, and has round a head decorated with a wreath of laurel, the following inscription:—"IMP. CAES. NERVA TRAIANVS. GERM." ("The Emperor Caesar Nerva Trajanus Germanus.") On the reverse is a crowned figure, seated, and holding an olive branch in the right hand, round which is inscribed, "P. M. TR. P. COS. III. P. P.—(*A High Priest, a Tribune of the People, thrice a Consul, and styled the Father of his country.*)" Nerva Trajan reigned in the 98th year of the Christian era, consequently this coin is above 1700 years old.—*Tour in Teesdale*.

June.—The foundation stone of Longhurst house, Northumberland, the seat of William Lawson, esq., was laid, from the designs of John Dobson, esq. Its architecture is Grecian, its masonry of the most excellent description, its material, a fine grained and warmly tinted sandstone from an adjacent quarry; and its interior boasts of every convenience and luxury of modern times. The grounds are laid out in a style suited to the architecture of the mansion in every particular.—*MS. Col.*



BERTRAM MONEBOWCHER TOWER, INSIDE, 1823.
One of the towers removed at this period.

1824 (July).—The town wall which extended from Newgate to Pilgrim-street, Newcastle, with the straggling houses which were built against it on the outside, were at this time being pulled down, for the purpose of forming an elegant new square and street, which have since been completed, and named “Eldon-square,” after our illustrious townsman, the earl of Eldon, and “Blackett-street,” after the late alderman John Erasmus Blackett, esq.—*Local Rec.*

A renegade who had been in the British naval service during the late war, and, on the return of peace, stationed at the flag-staff on the Town moor, Newbigging-by-the-Sea, made a confession at Potsdam, that in 1812 he had murdered a man, who had escaped from a ship that was wrecked near the flag-staff, secured his chest, and buried his body on a point a little to the south of the station. Depositions of his confession were forwarded from the war office, to Mr. Bigge, of Linden, with instructions to enquire into the truth of his account. He was well remembered at Newbiggin, as a worthless fellow; but after a most diligent search was made for the dead mans bones, nothing of the kind could be found; and as the criminal had been several times in prison after his return from Prussia, for dishonest practices, and was in durance at hard labour in the work-house at Potsdam for life when he made the confession, it was believed that his whole tale was a fabrication to get to be put upon his trial in England, and set at liberty under more lenient laws than those of his own country.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

August 11.—The cause so vo very interesting to Newcastle and its neighbourhood—Rex versus Russell and others, proprietors of Walls-

end colliery, was tried at York, before Mr. Justice Bailey and a special jury. It was in form an indictment for an alleged nuisance in obstructing the navigation of the river Tyne, by erecting at the termination of the colliery railways, staiths or spouts for conveying coals directly from the waggons into the ships. Mr. Brougham was counsel for the keelmen, who were the real prosecutors. Mr. Scarlett for the defendants. A great number of witnesses were in attendance, but only seventeen were examined on the part of the prosecution. No witnesses were called for the defendants, who obtained a verdict of not guilty, which was returned in three minutes by the jury. The cause lasted twelve hours. This cause was again tried, August 14th and 15th, 1828, at Carlisle, before Mr. Baron Hullock, and a special jury. Mr. Brougham was again counsel for the prosecution, and Mr. Scarlett for the defendants. The latter did not call a witness. The jury after a consultation of four hours, returned the following singular verdict:—"We find that part of the navigable channel of the river Tyne, opposite to Wallsend, has been straitened, narrowed, lessened, and obstructed by the gears described in the indictment; but we find nevertheless, that the trade of the town of Newcastle, and the harbour of the Tyne, has at the same time greatly improved."—*Local Papers*.

1824 (Aug. 21).—A meeting of the nobility, clergy, and freeholders of the county of Northumberland, took place in the county courts, in Newcastle, (by order of the high sheriff,) to consider the expediency of forming a railway between Newcastle and Carlisle. Col. Coulson, opened by recommending an easy communication from sea to sea by a railway. Mr. Armstrong, merchant, endeavoured to prove to the meeting the decided advantage of a ship canal over a railway. Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., then proposed that a committee should be appointed to inquire whether this communication would be most desirable by a canal or railway, which was unanimously agreed to, and the meeting broke up. March 26th, 1825, another meeting was held, when the report of the committee in favour of a railway, was agreed to unanimously and without debate.—*Ibid*.

August 26.—This day (Thursday), there was the lowest spring ebb ever remembered in the river Tyne. Three pilots, L. Burn, junior, J. Harrison, and William Tully, walked across from the south to the north side of the river on Tynemouth bar! a circumstance, which it was believed, had never occurred before. At high water on that day, there were twenty-four feet, eight inches, water on the bar, and when the pedestrians set off they found only two!!—*Local Rec*.

August 29.—Died suddenly, while sitting at his desk, William Richardson, esq., of North Shields, aged 65 years. Mr. Richardson was born at Little-harle, Well-house, in the parish of Kirkwhelpington,

May 26th, 1759, and where he obtained an accurate knowledge of local antiquities, and a high relish for the music, songs, and tales of the ancient Northumbrian borderers. He was a teacher in his youth, and kept a school for a few years at Backworth, in the parish of Earsdon. He next removed to North Shields, where he practised as a notary public, for the long period of thirty-four years, and became secretary to several Marine Insurance Clubs of the port of Tyne. His correspondence was most extensive, and the ease and rapidity with which he conducted it were really astonishing. He was a contributor to several periodical publications, and a useful correspondent to some provincial newspapers. "Hotspur," and various other specimens of his poetic talents, were privately circulated amongst his friends. His "Description of Croft Spa," obtained some celebrity, but his fame rests most upon his translation of Anacreon in chaste, smooth, and elegant verse. There is a marble monument to his memory put up in Tynemouth church.—*Local Papers.*

1824 (Sep. 2).—During a severe thunder storm, the wife of Michael Anderson, a hind at Westburnhope, near Hexham, and the horse on which she was riding were instantaneously killed by lightning, on the road between Ridlamhope and Westburnhope. Her husband was with her, and was struck down and blinded, but recovered his sight. Six cows belonging to Mr. Ralph Forster, of Barrasford, were killed by one flash. A horse, at Wittonstall, was also struck dead. A thorn hedge, near Horsley, was set on fire, and burnt for about forty yards. In a house, near Newstead, between Alnwick and Belford, a man was killed, and another much hurt by the lightning. A cow, the property of Mr. Murdy, of Heifer-law-bank, was also killed in the field. A pig was killed by the lightning, at a house near Morton-square, a few miles from Berwick, and a man at the same place was slightly injured. Two houses in Zion-street, Sunderland, were much damaged by the lightning. As a butcher was driving some lambs in the Back-lane four of them were struck dead. A mason returning home with his trowel in his hand, the lightning struck the trowel, and carried it to a considerable distance. The man was not hurt. At Middleton in Teesdale, as Mr. John Pinkney, one of the stewards to the London Mining Company, at that place, was returning home, about a mile from Middleton, he and his horse were both killed upon the spot. He left a widow far advanced in pregnancy, and six small children to lament his awful fate. A tremendous flash went down the chimney of the poor-house, in Barnard-castle, and though about twenty persons were in the rooms, it providentially did no material hurt. It came out of the fire-place of the first story, and though some old men were sitting round the fire, it did not hurt them, except striking one

deaf for a little time. It then passed to the next room, tore the plastering from the wall, ploughed up the boards for two yards or more, passed under the feet of an old woman who was sitting on an iron beadstead, yet did her no harm. It then proceeded to the lower story, played round the room in the most astonishing manner, leaving marks of its power; from thence it went through the wall into the back kitchen, knocked one man down, and though the mistress of the house and a girl were nearly in a line with it, they only found its effects a few hours. A person in the kitchen said he distinctly saw it go out of the door in the form of a ball of fire. When the master went into the rooms to look after the old people, the sulphur was so strong that he could scarcely enter, and the scene was past description.—*Local Papers*.

1824 (Sep. 18).—Died, at Deptford, Bishopwearmouth, Jane Claxton, aged 101 years.—*Ibid*.

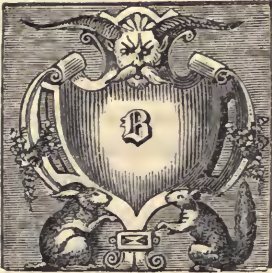
September 20.—Died, at Sunderland, Jane Wayman, aged 100 years.—*Ibid*.

September 23.—The new market-house at Stockton, for butchers, was opened for public use, and the same day the first horse fair was held in Stockton, and a public cattle show very numerously attended, and rewards distributed.—*Brewster*.



AT BARNARD CASTLE.

CHAPTER XIII.



ETWEEN one and two o'clock on the morning, of the 3rd of October, 1824, the iron foundry of Messrs. Guthrie and Co., of Tweedmouth, was discovered to be on fire. Notwithstanding the utmost exertions on the part of the inhabitants, with the water-engine from Berwick, the fire continued its progress until about five o'clock, when with difficulty it was got under, after destroying

a great part of the building.—*Local Papers.*

October 5.—A grand musical festival commenced at Newcastle, which lasted four days. It was composed of some of the first vocal and instrumental performers in the kingdom. The numbers of persons who attended the different morning's performances were as follows, viz:—on Wednesday, 1,437; on Thursday (an extremely wet day), 849; and on Friday, 1,451. There was also, on this occasion, a grand ball at the Assembly rooms. The Chevalier Valabrague (husband to Madame Catalani), undertook this festival at his own risk, engaging to give one-fifth of the entire receipts to the public charities. This engagement, however, it seems he afterwards repented of, and having expressed to the committee his conviction that he should be a loser by the speculation, he succeeded in inducing them to give up to him the whole of the receipts at the ball, thus putting into his own pocket £65 6s. of the money he had promised the charities! The prices of admission to the ball had moreover been raised from 6s. 6d. (the usual charge) to 10s., on the application of the Chevalier, who required this advance on account of the superior band he should engage. The band, however, that attended was very inferior indeed to that which usually performed at the Newcastle assem-

blies; and the company generally expressed the greatest dissatisfaction with it. Had not Mr. Richardson, the master, and one or two other members of the ordinary band, been present, it is believed that the music called for could not have been performed. Upon the whole it is certain that Monsieur Valabrage made a good thing of the festival. The public charities of Newcastle, Durham, and Northumberland, received among them £768 8s. 4d.; and the Chevalier got the remainder, amounting to £3,400 3s. 8d., out of which he had to pay the expences; and these, looking to the smallness of the number of performers, could not be very considerable.—*Local Papers*.

1824 (Oct. 5).—A hay and straw market was established in Newcastle, to be holden on the Parade Ground, at the head of Percy-street, on the Tuesday in every week.—*Ibid*.

October 10.—One of the severest storms of wind and rain ever remembered took place in Newcastle and its neighbourhood. It continued without intermission for nearly twenty-four hours. The rain fell in torrents, and laid considerable tracts of land under water. Much damage was done on the banks of the river Wear, by its rising to a tremendous height; but the most fatal and destructive effects were felt at sea and along the coast, when 200 vessels were cast away.—*Ibid*.

October 12.—One of that rare species of birds called the Great Northern Diver, was shot on the river Tyne, near Newcastle, Quay, by a keelman. Various ineffectual attempts were made by different persons above the bridge to secure it. The storm on the 10th and 11th was supposed to have driven this unfortunate visitor from its northern haunts, as not one of this species had ever been seen so far south before.—*Ibid*.

October 19.—A hay and straw market was established in Sunderland, to be held in the High-street, on the Tuesday in each week.—*Ibid*.

October 23.—About nine o'clock at night, a fire broke out in the house of Mr. John Rennison, bookseller, Berwick, which consumed a considerable quantity of stock in the wareroom where it originated, and before it could be got under, communicated to a bedroom adjoining; by the prompt attendance of the engines, the fire was in the course of about three hours extinguished. It was occasioned by the shop-boy going up to the wareroom with a candle, from which a spark had reached some loose papers.—*Ibid*.

October 25.—A prize fight for twenty sovereigns a side between two young men of Newcastle, named James Wallace, a bricklayer, and Thomas Dunn, a butcher, was fought on Barlow Fell, near Ryton, in the county of Durham. It was computed, that at this

disgraceful scene there were not less than 2,000 persons, who evinced much disappointment at the speedy victory obtained by the bricklayer over his antagonist. After the eighth round, in all of which Wallace proved his superiority, time was called, and he was declared the victor. On the morning and at night Newcastle exhibited great agitation. The chaise which conveyed Dunn to the field, ran over an old man and broke both his legs, which caused his death a short time after. *Local Papers.*

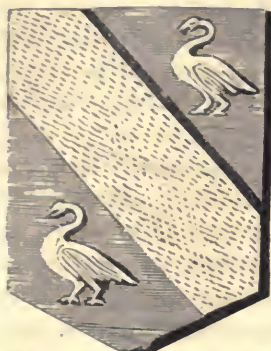
1824 (Oct. 25).—An explosion took place in the George Pit, Lumley, when fourteen human beings were launched into eternity.—*Ibid.*

November 1.—Died at North Sunderland, Northumberland, Elizabeth Gregory, widow, aged 104 years.—*Ibid.*

November 5.—Nearly fifty vessels were wrecked on the dangerous rocks near Hawthorn Dene, on the coast of Durham, together with all their crews, excepting that belonging to the ship *Dido*, which was wrecked betwixt two rocks, about thirty yards from the shore, where the late major George Anderson, of Newcastle, who witnessed the distressing scene, had collected all his servants in order to render every possible assistance to the unfortunate mariners, who, having lost their mainmast, foremast, and rudder, collected themselves upon the bowsprit, and made several fruitless attempts to throw a rope to the shore; fortunately, however, the major had an excellent Newfoundland dog, which by encouragement, after several attempts, succeeded in catching hold of the rope, and brought it through the raging surges to the major and his servants, who held it till all the crew (fourteen in number) had escaped from the foaming gulph, which threatened them with destruction. The crew having been refreshed with every necessary comfort at the major's house, departed after gratefully thanking their preservers; and so affected were the feelings of the captain's wife, that on the following day she visited Hawthorn Hive cottage, the major's residence, where she, with streaming eyes, expressed her gratitude, and falling upon her knees, kissed the dog which has been so essentially instrumental in saving her husband and the crew.—*Ibid.*

November 5.—About twelve o'clock at night, the water corn-mill at Chester-le-street, in the occupation of Messrs. Croudace, Smith, and Wight, was discovered to be on fire, the flames bursting through the doors, windows, &c. A number of the inhabitants promptly repaired to the spot to render assistance; there being no engine in the town, some of them immediately went to Lambton-hall, and brought the engine belonging to J. G. Lambton, esq., M.P., but too late to render any assistance, as the roof and the upper lofts fell in about two o'clock, a very fortunate circumstance for the proprietors of the other

buildings near the mill, as a large thatched house, the mill stables, and other buildings were within ten yards. The machinery had all been put up new about four or five months before. There were about fifty sacks of flour dressed, a quantity of dressed wheat, and upwards of six hundred bolls of corn. The loss was supposed to be between £1,400 and £1,600. No part was insured. The water wheels were the only part saved from the devouring element.—*Local Papers.*



1824.—Died, at Heidelberg, in Germany, Francis count Jenison Walworth, eldest son of Francis Jenison, esq., of Walworth, in Heighington, county Durham, where he was born February 8, 1764. On the retirement of his father and family to the Continent in 1776, after the sale of their property, he accompanied them thither, and was established with them at Heidelberg, became successively page and colonel of the Guards to the elector palatine, afterwards

colonel in the service of Hesse Darmstadt, from which court at the commencement of the war in 1793 and when the princes of Germany were subsidized by Great Britain, he was appointed envoy to the court of St. James's, and was entrusted with the negociations which ensued respecting the continuance of the Hessian troops in the English pay, and concluded a treaty with the late marquis of Hertford, then earl of Yarmouth, by which the stipulated contingents to the first coalition of the continental states against revolutionary France, was regulated and detailed. Subsequent to the marriage of the late king of Wurtemberg with the princess royal, he was selected for the office of grand chamberlain of the household at Stuttgard, a station to which the superiority of his polished manners and refined address peculiarly qualified him; he remained in this dignity till the death of the king, and was high in the confidence of both their majesties. Count Jenison married Mary, eldest daughter of the late celebrated Topham Beauclerk, the intimate friend of Johnson, Goldsmith, and Burke, by lady Diana Spencer, eldest sister of the late duke of Marlborough. By this lady (who inherited her mother's talents for painting and the arts) he left six children, viz. two sons and four daughters, besides a son by a former marriage, now (1824) ambassador from Bavaria to the king of Naples.—*Gent's. Mag.*

While the workmen were engaged in clearing away the earth which had accumulated in and over the ditch on the outside of Carliol tower, Newcastle, they found several skeletons huddled together, and in the skull of one of them a cannon ball. These have evidently



CARLISLE TOWER, INNER-FACE (1825).

been slain Scots which after the siege of 1644, were thrown into the ditch, and covered with earth to hide and rot their bodies. During these operations, and while forming the outer windows, there was found just over one of the balustrariæ a cannon ball, lodged two and a half feet deep in the wall. It was sadly rusted, and weighed $22\frac{3}{4}$ lbs, allowing for waste it had probably been a twenty-four-pounder. Several other cannon shots were found of various weights.—*MS. Col.*

1824 (Nov. 7).—A fire broke out in the cabin of the ship *Emerald*, captain Pringle, when moored off the Custom-house quay, North Shields. It was discovered from the excise-office, and the alarm given. With the assistance of the crew of the *Fleetwood*, of London, and others, it was got under without much damage.—*Local Papers.*

November 8.—A letter from captain Davidson, of the ship *North-umberland*, of North Shields, to the owner, stated the following fact ; the ship was lying at Sierra Leone :—" On the 8th of November, 1824, one of our crew being on the bowsprit fishing, dropped his knife over-board. He made a great deal of work about it, but judge his surprise, when on the same afternoon he caught a dolphin with the identical knife in its belly. The fish was cut up in my presence, and I saw the knife taken out."—*Local Rec.*

1824 (Nov. 18).—A meeting was held at Alnwick to take into consideration the propriety of establishing a Mechanics' Institution for the instruction and improvement of the operative classes. The object of the meeting having been laid before his grace the duke of Northumberland, his grace, with his wonted liberality, approved of it, and became its patron. The right honourable earl Grey also became its president. June 22nd, 1831, the foundation stone of a new building for this institution was laid in the Green Bat, in that town with great ceremony, by John Lambert, esq., who generously presented the society with the site for the building.—*Local Papers*.

The same evening Hexham was first lighted with oil lamps.—*Ibid*.

November 19.—An explosion took place in the Dolly pit, Newbottle colliery, which proved fatal to the eight deputy overmen and wastemen who were below at the time; and also to three of five others who afterwards descended in search of the dead bodies. A partition which divided the shaft (it being a double one) was blown from its situation and fell to the bottom.—*Ibid*.

On the evening of the same day a quantity of gunpowder having been accidentally ignited in the shop of Mr. Archbold, grocer in Wooler, caused a tremendous explosion, by which the windows of the shop were driven out, and those of the second and third story of the same house, and also those of the adjoining house were broken. Some rolls of Spanish juice were driven to the opposite side of the street, by which several squares of glass were broken. Mr. Archbold's eyes were much injured by the powder.—*Ibid*.

November 24.—Died, at Throckley Fell, Ann Jamieson, aged 102 years. She resided at Bamborough 58 years, and was one of the greatest spinners of the north; and what was remarkable, during the last twelve months of her life she spun upwards of forty yards of cloth for the use of her son, although she had been blind for above three years; and it was with the greatest difficulty she could be kept from her wheel on the morning of her death.—*Gent's Mag*.

December 6.—The new branch of the turnpike road from Tyne-bridge to Durham, by Potticlar-lane, at the head of Gateshead, and the Low Fell, to avoid the great elevation of the hill-top over which the old road went, was commenced making. The royal mail first passed along this road, June 17th, 1826.—*Local Papers*.

December 7.—About four o'clock on the morning, a fire broke out in the carpet manufactory of Messrs. Harrison, Crosby, Dunn and Co., at Barnardcastle; the wind at the time blowing very strong from the west, caused the flames to increase very rapidly and endanger the whole street, but fortunately, in a few minutes, the wind ceased, and by the great exertions of the neighbours, the fire was got under, but

not till nearly the whole premises were destroyed. Many of the windows on the opposite side of the street were broken, and several families near the place removed their goods and children, many of them nearly naked. The loss was estimated at £1,500., and no part was insured.—*Local Papers*.

December 10.—The out-houses at Balkwell, near North Shields, belonging to Mr. Richard Cowell, were discovered to be on fire, when the barn, with a thrashing machine, a byer and a stable in which was a fine young horse, were consumed. The stack-garth and dwelling-house, by the prompt exertions of the neighbouring farmers, were saved from the devouring element. This was supposed to be the act of an incendiary, as a short time before, a hay stack was set on fire, which Mr. Cowell was positive could not have originated from accident, and had therefore kept a watch every night till that on which the last conflagration happened.—*Ibid*.

December 25.—The wind blew, with short intervals of calm, a perfect hurricane for several days, and the snow, sleet, rain, and frost followed each other with astonishing rapidity. The river Tyne was swollen to a great extent. The villages by the water side were all more or less inundated. At Blaydon the water rushed into one house in such a torrent, that it was found to be seven feet deep, and the inmates were obliged to be taken out by a boat from the window! A butcher in the village had two sheep lost. The coaches were all delayed by the state of the roads. On the above day the horses had to swim with the True Briton coach across the river at Corbridge. It was four hours behind its usual time of arrival at Newcastle from Carlisle. The Carlisle mail, which ought to have reached Newcastle at seven o'clock at night, did not arrive till half-past eleven o'clock on the following morning, as they were obliged to stop all night at Hexham, not deeming it safe to cross the bridge, or rather the river at Corbridge.—*Ibid*.

December 27.—The foundation stone of a Presbyterian chapel in connection with the United Secession church of Scotland, was laid in the Newbottle road, near Houghton-le-Spring, by George Robinson, esq., of that place, in the presence of part of the congregation.—*Ibid*.

December.—“The Port of Newcastle Association for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck,” was formed. By this association are provided life-boats, Manby's apparatus, Dennett's rockets, rope-ladders, and other means to be used under the management of experienced persons, at appointed stations, for the protection of life from shipwreck, and rewards granted for the preservation of seamen in time of danger.—*M.S. Col*.

1824 (December 30).—Died, at Rothbury, Christian Long, aged 102 years.—*Local Papers*.



CRYPT—CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS (1842).

December.—This month, a spacious vaulted chapel or crypt,* immediately beneath the great window of the north transept of St. Nicholas's church, Newcastle, and which had formerly been appropriated as a charnel house, was cleared out with a view to its removal. The roof of the vault is semicircular, composed of flat stones and strengthened by a series of five bold longitudinal ribs, and was approached by a pointed arched doorway on the western exterior of the transept.



On its east side is a remarkably fine circular window of five compartments and formed of one stone. There have also been four other lights on the north side, which were closed up when the large window was erected in the early part of the same year. In the south wall and near the east end is a very curious piscina† with an arch formed of two blocks of stone. The length of the vault from east to west, is twenty

* Crypt—aply so named from a Greek word, signifying—to hide—being below the floor of the building of which it formed a part. A vault, (when under a church,) sometimes used as a chapel, as an oratory, as a confessional, as a baptistery, as the burial place of a martyr, or saint, and even as a catacomb; but the former are its recognized appliances.—*Bloxam, &c.*

† Piscina—a niche on the south side of the altar in Roman Catholic Churches, con-

three feet and the breadth from north to south, eleven feet. This has undoubtedly been one of the ancient chantries * of the church, and there is good reason to fix here the site of that of St. Catherine, originally founded by Allan Durham, and which had a second foundation or augmentation in the reign of Edward III. From the appear-



ance of the east window already mentioned, and the stones remaining near it on the outside of the vault, we are induced to consider them not only as having formed part of the exterior wall of the transept previous to the erection of St. George's Porch, but that the vault itself may probably have been part of the original church, as from its peculiarly massy and solid construction, it was not unlikely to survive the conflagration of 1216. Two other circumstances may also be adduced, as favouring the idea, viz:

that the walls of the transept, both east and west have been built upon the flat stones, forming part of the roof of the chapel; and that there are no grooves for the reception of glass, in any part of the window above mentioned, from which circumstance it may be conjectured to have been in existence previous to the introduction of that material into this country, or at least before it had been generally adopted.† The intention of removing the crypt was abandoned, and both the window and the entrance to the vault closed with masonry.—*MS. Col.*

1824.—Wallis street Independent chapel, South Shields, founded.

taining a small basin in which the priest washed his hands, and beneath it, a water drain through which he poured the impure water, as also (when occasion required it,) that in which the chalice had been rinsed, as well as all the consecrated water remaining from the service. These niches frequently have a shelf across them, on which the cup was placed. *Lavatory*—is a term as frequently and as properly applied to designate these niches.—(*Bloxam, &c*).

* These were small chapels attached to, or forming a part of the church, separately appropriated by their founders, for the chanting of masses for the dead, and usually containing the tomb of the founder, and of others of his family.

† In fact it is quite evident from several other parts of the church that the whole structure was not destroyed in the fire alluded to. A reference to the early history of the church will afford a further confirmation of this idea, as we are told it was not finished rebuilding until the year 1359, whereas the justices itinerant occur as holding their courts in some part of the church, nearly a century before that period.

The register of births and baptisms, containing 83 entries, extends from 1824 to 1836.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

1824.—Wesleyan Methodist's chapel, Stockton on Tees (Durham and York), founded. The register of births and baptisms, 21 entries, extending from 1824 to 1837.—*Ibid.*

1825 (Jan. 5).—The Antiquarian society of Newcastle, held their twelfth anniversary meeting in the rooms provided for their accommodation in the new erection of the Literary and Philosophical Society in Westgate street, James Losh, esq., one of the vice-presidents, in the chair. John Anderson, esq., treasurer, read a very interesting report to a numerous attendance.—*Local Papers.*

February 2.—In the night of this day (Wednesday), there was a tremendous hurricane, which did considerable damage to chimneys, buildings, and shipping. It was followed next day by a most extraordinary high tide. At Newcastle the river rose above the quay, on which boats were floated, and several houses on both sides of the river Tyne were inundated, keels sunk, and floats of timber set adrift. By the tide of Friday morning, several cellars in the lower parts of Shields were filled, and other damage sustained; but the greatest sufferer was Mr. Wall, of the Low lights, North Shields, ship-builder. The sea breaking heavily upon the quay in front of the building-yard, washed the same away, and two vessels on the stocks, the one intended for a brig of about 120 tons, timbered and partly planked, and the other a sloop nearly finished, were washed off, and the larger vessel laid a complete wreck. The sloop was, by the praiseworthy exertions of several of the inhabitants and seamen of the town, with much difficulty got into a place of safety, but not without receiving much damage, and in the whole, it was calculated that Mr. Wall had sustained a loss of nearly £700. A subscription was commenced for the sufferer. The ground washed away at the Low-lights, was almost beyond belief. Part of the wall in front of Clifford's-fort, also gave way, over which the sea broke with tremendous fury; nor were the banks and rocks at the extremity of Cullercoats sands, able to withstand the impetuosity of the waves. A huge rock, which projected like a canopy, fell to the ground, and an inroad of several feet into the slaty bank, was visible. At Seaton Sluice, the tide was the highest ever remembered by the eldest inhabitant. The wind blew a heavy gale from the northward, and the sea was tremendously high, which, with the tide, threatened at one time to destroy the harbour. A breach was made by the sea through one of the piers, but by very great exertions it was repaired before the next tide. The whole of the east side of the stone pier was destroyed, and the entrance to the old harbour blocked up. The vessels in the port, fortunately did not

sustain any damage. At Blyth also, the tide rose to an unprecedented height. A house adjoining Mr. Hutchinson's school, was washed down, and the inmates, six in number, narrowly escaped being drowned. The poor woman of the house had only been brought to bed the preceding evening. Great praise was due to lieutenant Hall, R. N., and to Mr. John Campbell, for their benevolence and humanity to the poor sufferers. At Newbigging, considerable damage was also done by the same storm. The tide was extremely high at Sunderland, and accompanied by a tremendous sea, which caused great destruction to the cliffs at the edge of the moor, immense portions of which were washed away; the sea rushed up the banks with such force, as in many places to extend twenty yards on the moor. The ship Brancepath castle, in making the harbour, carried away a great portion of the temporary pier; and on the following day, the remainder of the pier was carried away by a Scots brig; both vessels were injured.—

Local Papers.

1825 (Feb. 6).—A new chapel belonging to the Baptists, called Salem chapel, was first opened for divine service at South Shields, and sermons were preached by captain Gardiner, and the rev. J. Stratton, of Sunderland, after which the sum of £16. 8s. 6d. was collected in aid of the building fund.—*Ibid.*

February 13.—Died, at Stockton-upon-Tees, William Sleigh, esq., aged 66, a lieut. col. in the army, and one of his majesty's justices of the peace for the county of Durham. In very early life col. Sleigh entered the army. He went into the 19th regiment of foot, in August, 1775; was made lieutenant, 1778, and captain in 1780. His regiment was ordered to North America during the war with the colonies, which he accompanied; and soon after he was engaged in two actions, one of which was at Eutaws, in North Carolina, in 1781. After his return to England in 1785, he married Ann, the only child and heiress of John Ward, esq., of Billingham, who survived him, without issue. In 1790, he became captain of the 23rd regiment, and in 1794, lieutenant-colonel of the 83rd. He afterwards (having retired from the army), accepted the commission of major in the Durham regiment of militia: and, subsequently, was appointed inspecting colonel of volunteers. His last service was commander of volunteer cavalry in his own district: and in all these services he acquitted himself as an experienced and judicious officer. In his youth colonel Sleigh, after being removed from a private school, finished his education under the superintendence of the rev. Hugh Moises, the distinguished master of the grammar-school, at Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Here colonel Sleigh imbibed a taste for classical learning, which he cultivated to the end of his life.—*Gent's Mag.*

1825 (Feb. 20).—A neat and commodious Methodist chapel was opened at Sadberge, near Darlington by Messrs. Atkinson and Noel, local preachers at the latter place.—*Local Papers*.

February 23.—A numerous and highly respectable meeting of the inhabitants of North and South Shields, was held at the Northumberland Arms inn, North Shields, when it was resolved to erect an iron bridge of suspension over the river Tyne, between these towns. Captain Samuel Brown, R. N., the original projector of suspension bridges, having made the necessary surveys, gave in his estimate of £93,000., which the gentlemen friendly to the project determined should be disposed of in shares of £100. each and in consequence, plans and elevations were engraved and shares disposed of. The late William Chapman, esq., of Newcastle, civil engineer, made several reports, and Mr. Telford, of London, was also consulted, both of which gentlemen confirmed its practicability; yet this project has been laid aside, and two steam ferries have since been established.—*Ibid*.

February 26.—Died, at Bishop Auckland, Grace Cummins, aged 100 years.—*Ibid*.

March 3.—Died, between Mount Sinai and Tor, on the Red Sea, the rev. Joseph Cook, M. A. Fellow of Christ's college, Cambridge, and younger son of the rev. Joseph Cook, of Newton-hall, Northumberland. After spending some years in the University, with the highest credit and honour to himself, and having proceeded B. A. 1813, M. A. 1816, he went to the continent in 1820. He visited Holland, France, Germany, and Switzerland, and resided four years in Italy, devoting his time to the public performance of his clerical duties at the English chapel at Rome, and that of the Ambassador at Naples, and to the study and contemplation of the interesting objects with which those classical shores abound; and having qualified himself for a full and minute examination of those regions, doubly interesting as being the sources of both sacred and profane history, he set out from Malta in August 1824, on a tour to Egypt and the Holy Land, accompanied by Dr. Bromhead, of Cambridge, and Mr. Lewis, of the navy. Having penetrated beyond the second cataract of the Nile, the party returned to Cairo, from whence they proceeded to Mount Sinai. The fatigue of this journey, the inclemency of the weather, and the privations inseparable from travelling in those countries, so weakened him (although he left Cairo apparently in perfect health), that after stopping a few days at Mount Sinai to recruit his strength, he was unable to reach Tor, and, under circumstances fraught with the most deep and awful interest, expired on his camel in the Pass Wady Hebram, near Mount Serbal. His remains were deposited by his companions in the burying-ground of a Greek church, near the Wells

of Elim, a spot which he had expressed the most anxious wish to visit, and which, to use the words of his friend, Dr. Bromhead, "Could he have foreseen his fate, he would probably have selected as his last earthly abode."—*Gent's. Mag.*

1825 (March 12).—In the night, Etal mill, near Wooler, occupied by Mr. George Oswald, was burnt down. The origin of the fire could not be accounted for.—*Local Papers.*



ETAL CASTLE (1836).

March 19.—Died, at Hampstead, sir Ralph Noel, of Halnaby, county York, and the county of Durham, bart. He succeeded to the baronetcy on the death of his father, sir Ralph Milbanke, of Halnaby, bart., 8th January 1798, and represented the county of Durham in five successive parliaments. On retiring from the representation of the county, in 1812, he received a unanimous vote of thanks from his constituents for his faithful services in parliament. He married Judith, eldest daughter of Thomas viscount Wentworth, on whose death he was permitted by royal licence, 29th May, 1815, to use the surname of Noel only. His only daughter and heiress, Anne Isabella, married George Gordon lord Byron, 2nd January 1815, by whom she had an only daughter Ada.

"Ada! sole daughter of my house and heart."

Sharp's Knts of Dur.

March.—Labourers employed in digging for gravel in a field at Hartburn, near Stockton, discovered two human skeletons, one at the depth of two feet, the other at the depth of four feet, and about ten yards asunder. From the appearance of the bones, it was evident they had lain long in the ground, and had been full grown persons.—*Brewster's Stockton.*

1825 (April 10).—Died, at Bishopwearmouth, Elspeth Mannors, aged 102 years. About twelve months before her death she had a great toe amputated, and bore the operation with great firmness.—*Local Papers.*

April 11.—“The Stockton, Yarm, and Norton Institution for the instruction of Mechanics, and for the promotion of useful knowledge,” was founded.—*Brewster.*

May 1.—His grace the duke of Northumberland, had an audience with his majesty, and took his leave preparatory to his grace's embassy to Paris, to be present at the coronation of the king of France, as the representative of the king of England. The next day, their graces the duke and duchess with their suite, left Northumberland house, and arrived at Canterbury the same evening, whence they proceeded to Bourne-place, the residence of the honourable archdeacon Percy, where they dined and slept, and proceeded the following morning to Dover. His grace's suite which consisted of ten carriages, had arrived there the day before. His grace was received with every demonstration of respect, and the usual discharge of artillery from the heights. A numerous retinue of servants and horses had arrived at Payne's York hotel, some days previous. His majesty's steam vessels the Lightning and Comet, had arrived in the harbour a day or two before, for the purpose of conveying the duke across the channel, and in which his grace and suite embarked amidst the huzzas of thousands of the spectators, who thronged the pier heads. On leaving the harbour, the cannon again resounded from the batteries, to which the Brazen, man-of-war, lying in the roads, and intended as a convoy, commanded by captain George Willis, replied, by firing a royal salute as the steam vessels approached her.—*Local Papers.*

May 1.—Died, at Cullercoats, Mrs. Mary Barnes, widow, aged 101 years.—*Ibid.*

May 3.—The foundation stone of the north pier of an intended chain bridge, over the river Tyne, at the west boat, near Hexham, was laid.—*Ibid.*

May 11.—Messrs. C. and G. Green, ascended in the car attached to their magnificent balloon, from the Nun's-field, in Newcastle, amidst an immense concourse of spectators. The day being cloudy they were soon out of sight, but to gratify the spectators, they descended so as to be again visible, they then ascended and taking a north west direction, alighted near Newbiggen, about four miles, west from Newcastle. On the 23rd, these gentlemen again ascended from the same place, but from an accident in the valve, it was with difficulty that they reached a field near the white lead works at Low Elswick, near Newcastle. The balloon having dragged the car over

a wall and through a hedge, all its splendid decorations were torn off it and nothing left but the wicker work. Failing in this attempt, these gentlemen again ascended on the 30th of the same month. The balloon rose most majestically from the Nun's-field, in an almost perpendicular direction to a great height, and bore away to the south, crossing the whole county of Durham, and finally alighted near the Tontine inn, Yorkshire, a distance of forty-eight miles from Newcastle. The daring aëronauts having secured the balloon, proceeded to Stockton, where they were greeted on their arrival by an immense multitude of people. June 16th, Messrs. Green ascended from Stockton. The balloon took a westerly direction for about four miles, when it met with a counter current, which brought it back again over the town, where it appeared stationary as if for the double gratification of the great concourse of people assembled at that place to witness it. It then bore away rapidly for the mouth of the river Tees, but meeting with another current, it was carried in the direction of Acklam-hall, between which place and Morton, the intrepid voyagers landed in perfect safety, after being absent from the earth forty-five minutes. July 5th, Mr. George Green ascended from the Palace-green, in the city of Durham. The weather being fine, a great concourse of people had assembled. The balloon, though not above half inflated with gas, ascended a few minutes after four o'clock, and had a most beautiful appearance. It took a south-eastern direction, and after remaining in the air for about thirteen minutes, descended in a field of wheat on the estate of John Gregson, at Whitwell Grange, about three miles from Durham. The descent was seen with the naked eye, by several spectators from the city. A post chaise and four, which was dispatched immediately after the descent, returned to Durham with Mr. Green and a friend, soon after six o'clock. The greatest elevation of the balloon during this short voyage was 2,200 feet as proved by the fluctuation of the mercury. July 14th, Messrs. G. and W. Green made a fourth ascent from the Nun's-field, in Newcastle. The aëronauts left the earth about ten minutes before one o'clock, and immediately took a north easterly direction. When they were at the greatest height, the balloon remained stationary for near ten minutes; and after being in the atmosphere for twenty minutes, having a distinct view of the sea, which appeared almost perpendicularly under them, they deemed it prudent to descend. This appeared the more necessary as they observed the wind below them was from the south-west. The aëronauts landed with ease and safety, in a field a mile from Long Benton. This ascent was not surpassed by any of the former exhibitions, in dignity and splendour; and the clearness of the atmosphere enabled the eye to follow the adventurers

to a painful height, while the dazzling effulgence of the sun made the spectacle almost too brilliant to behold.—*Local Papers*.

1825 (May 21).—Died, in Pilgrim-street, Newcastle, after a lingering illness, Thomas Charlton Sykes, a native of that town in the 22nd year of his age. He possessed a bold, vigorous, and well-cultivated mind, a rapid conception of ideas, and a fine poetic taste, which gave promise of future excellence, but a delicate constitution, unadapted to the sedentary habits he had acquired through a love of study, gradually gave way and destroyed his earthly prospects. After a lingering illness, which he bore with great composure and resignation, he expired without a struggle at the early age of 21, deeply lamented by his friends, and regretted by all who knew him.—*Dur. Adv.*

1825 (June 8).—The foundation stone of a new light-house, erected by the Trinity board of Newcastle, was laid on the Longstone rock, one of the Farn islands, on the coast of Northumberland. February 15th, 1826, the light was exhibited for the first time in this new light-house.—*Local Papers*.

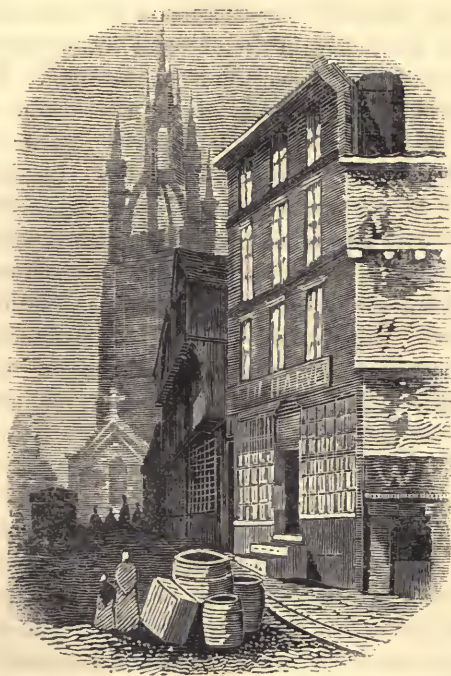


THE FARN LIGHT (1838).

June 15.—The foundation stone of a new bridge at the confluence of the rivulets at the head of the Old Burn-lane, Hexham, was laid in masonic form by Mr. Matthew Wilson, saddler, amidst a great number of the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood.—*Ibid.*

June 20.—The infant school at the Orphan-house, in Newcastle, was opened, and upwards of seventy children from two to five-and-a-half years of age were entered. Other infant schools have since been established at Newcastle.—*Ibid.*

1825 (June 23).—The foundation of the new building for the Lying-in hospital was laid in Bridge-street, Newcastle. The elevations, details, and specifications of the several works were gratuitously supplied by John Dobson, esq., architect; the building is exceedingly chaste, and well adapted for the purpose intended, in the style of English architecture which prevailed about three centuries ago. There is an oriel window in front; and the ornamented canopy sills are very finely executed. The expense of the building and fitting up amounted to £1,550. The average number of patients for the last twenty years has been sixty-eight.—*MS. Col.*



June 26.—About half-past two o'clock in the morning (Sunday) an alarming fire was discovered in the manufactory of Mr. Harvey, tobacconist, head of the Side, Newcastle. Engines were sent for with all possible dispatch, and they continued to play till about half-past five o'clock, when, by great exertions, the fire was overcome. The presses and a cutting-machine were destroyed, and the whole of the building, from the ground-floor to the roof, was entirely consumed. It was with the greatest difficulty that Mr. Harvey's shop, and Mr. Wylie's flax-warehouse, adjoining, were preserved from the flames. The premises fronting to the street are represented in the above cut,

and it is the house in which lord Collingwood is said to have been born.—*Local Papers, &c.*

1825 (July 3).—This evening, an explosion took place in the Juliet pit, belonging to Messrs. Lamb and Co., at Harraton Outside, near Chester-le-street, by which dreadful accident eleven human beings lost their lives, and all the horses down the shaft were destroyed. Had it happened a few hours later, the number of pitmen and boys in the mine would have been forty or fifty. No cause could be assigned for this lamentable catastrophe.—*Ibid.*

The Scotch church at Hexham was built, and opened for divine worship July 8th; the rev. James Richardson being the minister. The congregation under a long succession of Presbyterian ministers had worshipped previously in an old and inconvenient building on Gilligate bank, commonly called the Whig meeting. There was formerly another congregation of this creed in Hexham, who had their meeting-house at the Sandy foundation, near the Hall-orchard. James Richardson died, December 11th, 1830, in his fortieth year, deeply regretted, he was succeeded by William Nixon, Robt. Carswell, and Jas. Blair. The edifice is a good substantial building, in a choice situation,—the junction of the Battle-hill and Hencotes with the Seal. The site was given by T. W. Beaumont, esq., but the building and law expenses were costly, and created a debt which crushed the minister, and continues to embarrass the people. A division took place on the appointment of Mr. Nixon, which originated the Secession church at Hexham.—*Jos Ridley's MSS.*

July 26.—Died, at Preston, near North Shields, Mrs Mary Verdy, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers.*

July.—About three o'clock on the morning a fire broke out in the Cumberland, a trader between Newcastle and London, which was then lying in the river Tyne, off South Shields, with a valuable cargo of goods for the latter port. There was about £2000 worth of whale-bone belonging to one gentleman on board, besides lead and other goods. The origin of the fire was unknown, but it was conjectured that a quantity of charcoal in the hold had ignited. By great exertions the vessel was got over the river to the Dortwich sand, on the north side, but all attempts to extinguish the flames were unavailing till she was reduced to a shell, and the greater part of the goods was destroyed.—*Local Rec.*

August 3.—In consequence of existing differences between the shipowners and seamen of the port of Sunderland, the latter, on the above day, attempted forcibly to prevent ships going out to sea, when a most melancholy affair took place. A ship called the Busy, was going out with a number of special constables on board, to protect

the crew, when the men assembled in great numbers, and attempted to prevent her by boarding. They soon overpowered the civil force, when a troop of the 3rd Light dragoons from the barracks at Newcastle, who had been sent for some time before, to assist in preserving the peace on the river Wear, were called upon to assist the magistrates in getting the ship out to sea. They succeeded in driving the intruders out of the ship, but in passing the north sand where ships are obliged to keep in shore, those on board were assailed with stones and other missiles, from a numerous mob of men and women, which they bore with patience a considerable time, but one of the soldiers having been severely wounded in the face, they were ordered to fire in their own defence, which they did at first over the heads of the rioters, but without the desired effect. Seven or eight shots were then fired at the crowd, by which three men were killed, and another was mortally wounded, and died next morning. Several were wounded. After this affray the town remained in great commotion for some time, but, more military having been procured from the barracks at Newcastle, the mob dispersed without any further mischief. The names of the four men who were killed were William Wallace, Thomas Aird, John Dovor, and Ralph Hunter Creighton. The coroner's verdict upon the three former was *justifiable homicide*; but, upon the latter, who was a carpenter, a verdict was returned of *accidental death*, he not being engaged in the riot, but a spectator. In a day or two after, another man, a labourer, died, in consequence of having received a shot when going from his work.—*Local Papers*.

1825 (August 17).—Died, at Monkwearmouth-shore, Margaret Nichol, aged 104 years.—*Ibid*.

August 19.—Died, in the Freeman's hospital, in the Manor-chare, Newcastle, of which he was governor, aged 68, Mr. John Marshall. He was the only son of a respectable timber merchant in Newcastle, had many rich relatives, and was cousin to the rev. George Walker, F.R.S. His classical education was completed at the grammar-school of this town, under the superintendence of the rev. Hugh Moises, M. A. Unfortunately, his parents died while he was a youth; and his property gradually melted away, in consequence of a series of imprudent speculations. Being, as he expressed it, "jilted by Dame Fortune, and deserted by his summer friends," he embraced a seafaring life. Tiring of this, he joined the profession of teachers, the members of which are finely delineated in his "Portrait of a Village Pedagogue." In 1804, he performed his "Walk from Newcastle to Keswick," where he was hospitably received by his friend, Mr. Crossthwaite, proprietor of the Museum of Natural and Artificial Curiosities, and who procured him a vacant school in the re-

tired vale of Newlands. About a year afterwards, by the recommendation of the curate of Buttermere, he became the Pedagogue of Loweswater, where, with his reverend friend, he smoked "the pipe of peace," and drank home-brewed ale, in the neat cottage of Mary of Buttermere. After this he kept a school at Morpeth, at Murton, and at Newburn; but his want of prudence, his love of convivial company, and his increasing age, compelled him, in 1819, to seek shelter in the Westgate hospital, whence he was removed to Jesus' hospital. He was a good classical scholar, and understood French and some of the other modern languages. Besides his Village Pedagogue, he was author of several lesser pieces of poetry, that display considerable taste and fancy.—*Mackenzie*.

1825 (August 29).—The lord bishop of Oxford consecrated a new chapel of ease at East Rainton, in the parish of Houghton-le-spring, in the county of Durham.—*Local Papers*.

September 1.—The lord bishop of Oxford consecrated the new church of Falstone, in the county of Northumberland. This is one of the livings into which the large rectory of Simonburn, was divided by act of parliament.—*Ibid*.



BLYTH CHURCH (1826).

September 6.—Died, at Blyth, Northumberland, Mr. William Carr, blacksmith. He was born at Hartley Old Engine, on the 3rd of April 1766. At the early age of eleven years he was apprentised to his father. At 17 he measured 6 feet 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches high, and weighed 16 stones; he could lift seven or eight hundred weight with ease. At 30 years of age he weighed 24 stones, and stood 6 feet 4 inches high. At this period he is said to have carried an anchor weighing 10

hundred weight, from the sands to his father's shop for repairs. By his frequent and violent exertions of this nature at a period of life when most men are usually in their prime, he became quite enfeebled, and unable to sustain his immense body. For some time he supported himself with the aid of sticks, but nature at length refused to be supplied in this way, and he finally took to his bed, where for several years he lay and was seldom moved. Distressed in mind, and weakened in body, this once Herculean and stupendous being closed his existence in the sixtieth year of his age.—*Mem. of Wm. Carr.*

1825 (Sep. 12).—His royal highness the duke of Brunswick and suite passed through Newcastle from Scotland.—*Local Papers.*

September 16.—About half past ten o'clock at night, a person having the appearance of a porter, brought a travelling trunk to the Turf hotel coach-office, in Collingwood street, Newcastle, where it was left for the purpose of being forwarded the following morning to Edinburgh. The address it bore was "James Syme, esq., 6, Forth-street, Edinburgh," but in consequence of its having been deposited in that part of the office where packages were placed for the south coach, and no coaches going north on the Sunday, it was detained till the Monday, when a most nauseous smell was felt from a liquid oozing therefrom. When the trunk was opened by order of the magistrates, it was found to contain the body of a young woman supposed to be about 19 years of age, of fair complexion, light eyes and yellow hair, and without any marks of violence. A similar package which arrived by the Telegraph coach from Leeds, on the night of January 6, 1826, containing the dead body of a woman, whose stature must have exceeded six feet; and another, brought from beyond York, on the 15th of the same month, in which was the body of a man, were detained and opened at the same office. Coroner's inquests were held in each case, after which the bodies were interred.—*Ibid.*

September 27.—The Stockton and Darlington railway was formally opened by the proprietors for the use of the public. It is 25 miles in length. To give éclat to the public opening of the road a programme was issued, stating that the proprietors would assemble at the permanent engine below Brusselton Tower, about nine miles west of Darlington, at eight o'clock. Accordingly the committee assembled at the bottom of Brusselton engine plane, near West Auckland, and here the carriages loaded with coals and merchandise, were drawn up the eastern ridge, by the Brusselton engine, a distance of 1960 yards, in $7\frac{1}{2}$ minutes, and then lowered down the plane on the east side of the hill, 880 yards in 5 minutes. At the foot of the plane the locomotive engine was ready to receive the carriages, and here the novelty of the scene, and the fineness of the day, had attracted an

immense concourse of spectators, the fields on each side of the railway being literally covered with ladies, and gentlemen on horseback, and pedestrians of all kinds. The train of carriages were then attached to the locomotive engine, built by Mr. George Stephenson, in the following order:—1. Locomotive engine, with the engineer (Mr. George Stephenson) and assistants. 2. Tender, with coals and water; next, six waggons, loaded with coals and flour; then an elegant covered coach, with the committee, and other proprietors of the railway; then 21 waggons, fitted up for passengers; and, last of all, six waggons, loaded with coals, making, altogether, a train of 38 carriages, exclusive of the engine and tender. Tickets were distributed to the number of near 300, but, such was the pressure and crowd, that both loaded and empty carriages were instantly filled with passengers. The signal being given, the engine started off with this immense train of carriages, and, such was its velocity, that in some parts, the speed was frequently 12 miles an hour,* and, at that time, the number of passengers were counted to be 450, which, together with the coals, merchandise, and carriages, would amount to near 90 tons. After some little delay in arranging the procession, the engine, with its load, arrived at Darlington, a distance of $8\frac{3}{4}$ miles, in 65 minutes. Six waggons loaded with coals, intended for Darlington, were then left behind, and, obtaining a fresh supply of water, and, arranging the procession to accommodate a band of music and passengers from Darlington, the engine set off again, and arrived at Stockton in 3 hours and 7 minutes, including stops, the distance being nearly 12 miles. On the arrival of the procession at Darlington, it was received with bursts of applause. By the time the cavalcade arrived at Stockton, where it was received with great joy, there were not less than 600 persons within, and hanging by the carriages, which excited a deep interest and admiration. Part of the workmen were entertained at Stockton, and part at Yarm, and there was a grand dinner for the proprietors and their most distinguished guests, to the number of 102, at the Town-hall in Stockton. Thomas Meynell, esq., of Yarm, was in the chair, and the mayor of the town acted as vice-president. The first rail of the Stockton and Darlington railway was laid by Thomas Meynell, esq., of the Friarage, Yarm, near St. John's Well, Stockton, where the depôt for coal is now erected, on the 23rd of May, 1822, with public ceremonies and rejoicings.—*Local Papers.*

1825 (Oct. 2).—The farm-house upon the lands of Dukesfield, near

* Thus the honour of the first introduction of locomotive engines on public railways belongs to the county of Durham; and it was not until after several years evidence of the results that Liverpool and Manchester improved on the experiment by an increase of the speed to the rate of thirty miles in forty minutes.—*MS. Col.*

Bamborough was discovered to be on fire. Mr. Lilburn, the tenant, and the heads of his family, had gone to the meeting on the morning, and had left the house in the charge of the servant girl. She and the younger part of the family having walked into the fields, it was long before the fire was discovered, and, before assistance could be procured the house was nearly enveloped in flames. The whole of the furniture (some trifling things excepted), the linen, the wearing apparel, a stock of wool, and cash in notes to a considerable amount, were entirely destroyed. Fortunately the house had no connection with the outbuildings and stack yard.—*Local Papers*.

1825 (October 5).—An explosion took place in Hebburn colliery by which four men were suffocated by the after-damp. The carbureted hydrogen gas took fire at a steel mill which was employed while the Davy lamps were cooling.—*Ibid*.

October 12.—A pair of spectacles in a steel case, were taken out of the maw of a salmon in the fish-market, Newcastle.—*Ibid*.

October 18.—Died, at Hexham, Mrs. Jane Rutherford, in her 106th year.—*Ibid*.

November 6.—This morning (Sunday), at a little before five o'clock, an alarming fire broke out in premises occupied by Mr. Charlton, tallow-chandler, at the foot of Gallowgate; adjoining St. Andrew's church-yard, Newcastle. From the tallow-house it communicated to a stable on one side, and a dwelling-house on the other. The stable and tallow-house quickly fell a prey to the devouring element, together with two horses in the former. The dwelling-house was in such a state of conflagration, that the inmates were glad to escape almost in a state of nudity, with there lives. Every article of furniture and wearing apparel belonging to these people were entirely destroyed.—*Ibid*.

November 14.—Died, at Edinburgh, John Fuller, esq., M.D. Dr. Fuller was the author of "The History of Berwick-upod-Tweed, including a short account of the Villages of Tweedmouth and Spittal, &c." with engravings, 8vo., 1799. In 1824 the Dr. issued prospectuses for "A general View of the Border History of England and Scotland," but which was not published in his life time.—*Ibid*.

November 16.—A new chapel, in connection with the church of Scotland, called St. George's chapel, was opened for divine service in Villier's-street, Bishopwearmouth.—*Ibid*.

November 19.—Died, in Grindon-chare, Newcastle, Abigail Gray, aged 101 years. She retained all her faculties to the last.—*Ibid*.

The Mechanical and Scientific institution of Morpeth was established.—*Ibid*.

1826 (Jan. 2).—The new fish-market, at the east end of the

guildhall, Newcastle, was first opened by a grand procession of the dealers, attended by a band of music. A dinner was given to them on the occasion, and All Saints' bells rung many a merry peal.—*Ibid.*

1825 (Jan. 3).—A murder was committed upon the body of Joseph Hedley, a highly respectable man, better known in the neighbourhood by the name of "*Joe the Quilter*," than by his own. He was a solitary widower, 80 years old, residing in a cottage in Homer's-lane, near Wardon, Northumberland, and living partly on alms and partly still by his own industry.

"His quilts with country fame was crowned,

"So neatly stitched, and all the ground

"Adorned with flowers or figured round."

that his assistance in this branch of art, as well as his entertaining and lively company, was much sought after by all the neighbourhood; and his cottage and adjoining garden were models of neatness. He was known, too, at times, to grace his board with some four silver table spoons, and two silver salts; and his tea-table with silver-spoons; and all this decency of appearance, and a constant flow of good and kind feeling, while they made him widely beloved, excited some envious calumniator to spread abroad a report that he was wealthy, and this became seduction to the cupidity and cruelty of another too powerful to resist. His cottage, body, and clothing, when his mangled remains were found, retaining convincing proofs that he had made a brave and powerful struggle to save life. The murderer remains undetected.—*Hodgson's Northd.*



JOE THE QUILTER'S COTTAGE (1825).

CHAPTER XIV.



THE first coals from the new colliery on the Springwell estate, belonging to the right honourable lord Ravensworth, and partners, were, on the 17th of January 1826, conveyed down the new railway (about five and a half miles in length) to the river Tyne, and put on board the ship *Industry*, at the improved new drop, erected on the Jarrow Grange estate of Cuthbert Ellison, esq. About half-past eight o'clock on the morning, the excellent band composed of his lordship and partners' colliers at Mount moor, in their new uniforms, with cockades at their caps, marched to the pit, playing several pleasing airs, and followed by a great concourse of spectators, amongst whom was an individual nearly 100 years old, (who had expressed a wish to see the first coals go from the pit, having, when a girl, on a like occasion, seen the first coals sent from the old colliery to the Wear,) for the accommodation of whom the agents sent a carriage to convey her thither, and gave her a cockade which she displayed at her bonnet. The procession left the pit at nine o'clock in four waggons, fitted up for the accommodation of the band, the agents of the colliery, and several ladies and gentlemen visitors, with a numerous concourse of persons on foot, and with eight chaldron waggons of coals, descended the inclined plane, and, preceded by the band, passed onwards towards the Tyne. On the coal waggons crossing the turnpike road from Sunderland to Newcastle, the company gave three cheers, the band playing "God save the king." On the procession arriving at Monkton, it was joined by some of the agents of the other collieries of his lordship and partners, and other gentlemen, and finally arrived at the top of the inclined plane, near the river, about half-past eleven o'clock, where numbers had assembled to join the procession, and view the operation

of shipping the coals, which are called Lord Ravensworth and Partners' Peareth's Wallsend. After placing the band in front of the cottages built on the spot, the coal waggons passed down the plane, one at a time, and landing upon the platform of the drop, were lowered on to the deck of the ship. The emptying of the first waggon was announced by a discharge of cannon, returned by a like discharge from the opposite shore. After the emptying of the coal waggons, the agents with a few select friends proceeded to Newcastle, and partook of an excellent dinner provided for the occasion by Mr. Richardson, of the Three Indian Kings Inn.—*Local Papers*.

1826 (Jan. 17.)—On the morning a terrible explosion of fire-damp, took place in Jarrow colliery, near South Shields, Durham, belonging to Thomas and Robert Brown, esqrs., of London, by which thirty-four men and boys were killed; and some others much burnt. Forty-five horses and two asses were also killed in the mine. The explosion took place in the Bensham pit, which had been recently sunk to the lowest seam. The cause could not be ascertained, as none who were in the place where the blast originated, were saved. It appeared on the coroner's inquest, on the body of Richard Bell, one of the sufferers, that the overmen and deputies had inspected all the workings on the morning of the day on which the accident occurred, and the wastemen had gone through the waste. There was no appearance of danger, but on the contrary, the pit seemed well ventilated, and in a perfectly safe state. The number down the pit at the time was forty-eight.—*Ibid*.

January 22.—Died, at the vicarage house, in Newcastle, the rev. John Smith, A. M., vicar of that town, in the 61st year of his age. He was a fellow of Trinity college, Cambridge, and a member of the senate. About the year 1790, he was appointed second master of Westminster school, under the rev. Dr. Vincent, he was afterwards presented with the living of Silkstone, near Barnsley, in Yorkshire, and in 1804, succeeded to the vicarage of Newcastle, upon the demise of the rev. J. D. Carlyle. During a constant residence for nearly twenty-two years upon his cure, he made many friends by his kind and hospitable disposition. He was an example of christian charity, for he not only "did not seek his own," but in many instances



returned what he received, and gave away privately to the extent of his means, while to the public charities of the place he was a liberal benefactor, and promoted many of them by the most vigilant personal attention and unceasing exertions. February the 1st. his remains were interred in a vault in St. Nicholas' church-yard near the library door, with every token of respect from great numbers of his sorrowing parishioners. The procession was previously arranged in the vestries of the respective churches, and set out from the vicarage about one o'clock. It was altogether on foot. The beadles with their staves led the way, followed by mutes; next came the boys and girls of St. Nicholas' charity schools. The caps of the former were trimmed with crape, and they had also a crape rosette on the left arm. The dresses of the girls were also similarly trimmed. They were followed by the several parochial officers, select vestrymen, &c. of the town. The clergy of the established church followed, and the procession was closed by a number of the private friends of the deceased, among whom were the mayor of Newcastle (George Forster, esq.), and several of the corporate body. The churchwardens, &c., wore scarfs and hatbands, the rest of the gentlemen hatbands only. From an early hour on the morning till the interment, the great bells of the several churches tolled, the flag on the castle was displayed half-staff high, and the shops in the line of the procession were all closed. The concourse of spectators was immense, and so eager were they to witness the interment that a great portion of the wooden paling on the south side of the church-yard was broken down by the pressure.—*Local Papers.*

1826 (Jan. 23).—Died, at Loosing hill, near Ravensworth, Durham, Mrs. Elizabeth Brown, aged 100 years, enjoying her memory to the last.—*Ibid.*

January 30.—Died, the venerable Reynold Gideon Bouyer, archdeacon of Northumberland, prebendary of Durham, rector of Howick, and vicar of North Allerton, with the chapelries of Brompton and Dighton, all in the diocese of Durham. He was of Jesus college, Cambridge, LL.B. 1769, was appointed prebendary of Durham in 1791, was presented to Allerton by the dean and chapter in 1814, and to Howick by the bishop. He published "A Sermon preached before the delivery of the colours to the Durham Volunteer Infantry, 1803," 4to. "Comparative View of the two new Systems of Education for the infant poor, in a Charge delivered to the Clergy of Durham, 1811." 8vo. Archdeacon Bouyer stands pre-eminent amongst the clergy of the diocese; having established, at his own expence, *parochial libraries*, in every parish in Northumberland, comprising upwards of 30,000 volumes, which cost him about £1400, although he was

supplied with them by the Society for the Promotion of Christian knowledge at 40 per cent. under prime cost. These useful libraries are placed under the care of the parochial ministers, and the books are lent gratuitously to the parishioners.—*Gent's. Mag., &c.*

1826 (Jan.)—Died, at Dalton, near Hexham, Mrs. Hannah Middleton, in the 102nd year of her age.—*Local Papers.*

In the beginning of this year, the numbering of the houses and shops in the various streets, &c. of Newcastle, was commenced.—*Ibid.*



February 1.—Died after a few hours' illness, at his seat, Gosforth-house, in Northumberland, Charles John Brandling, esq., M. P. for Northumberland, and lieutenant-colonel of the Northumberland and Newcastle volunteer cavalry. He was interred, on the 10th of February, at Gosforth church, with great solemnity. At an early period of the day, the carriages of the neighbouring gentry began to arrive at Gosforth house; and many persons on horseback and on foot went from

Newcastle and the neighbourhood. At two o'clock, the body was placed in the hearse; four morning coaches then drew up at the hall door, and received the mourners; and about half-past two the solemn procession, occupying nearly half a mile in extent, moved for the final depository. There were, including the hearse, upwards of thirty vehicles, nearly one half of them drawn by four horses each. After these came, in deep mourning, a troop of the Newcastle cavalry. A number of his tenantry closed the line. On arrival at the churchyard, where a stone vault of considerable dimensions had been constructed, the body was met by the rev. John Walker, who performed the service in a very impressive manner. The pall was supported by sir M. W. Ridley, M. P., sir Charles Loraine, sir C. M. L. Monek, barts., R. J. Lambton, C. W. Bigge, and C. J. Clavering, esqrs. As chief-mourners appeared the rev. R. H. Brandling, John Brandling, R. W. Brandling, Thomas Creevey, M. P., R. Burdon, Matthew Bell, William Linskill, Walter — Fawkes, G. Wentworth, and Charles Ogle, esqrs. After these followed a number of gentlemen with scarfs and hatbands. The church was crowded to excess, indeed the whole way from Gosforth house to the church was lined with sorrowing spectators.—*Ibid.*

February 8,—Died, in Silver-street, Newcastle. Mr. James Allan, aged 102 years.—*Ibid.*

February 16.—The free masons' lodge, No. 26, in the Groat-market, Newcastle, was consecrated and dedicated with great solemnity.

nity. They had removed from their lodge, in the Bigg-market, to these rooms, which had previously been occupied by the literary and philosophical society, that body having removed to their new building in Westgate-street.—*Local Papers.*



THE NEW BUILDING OF THE LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY (1836).

1826 (Feb. 17).—The foundation of a light-house, at the east end of the pier at the mouth of Berwick harbour, was laid by admiral Stow.—*Ibid.*

February 21.—The death of Mr. Brandling having occasioned a vacancy in the representation of Northumberland, the hon H. T. Liddell, of Eslington, and Matthew Bell, esq., of Woosington, began a very spirited canvas. The polling which commenced at Alnwick on the above day; was carried on with great determination, until the 7th of March, when Mr. Liddell declined any further contest, and Mr. Bell, was chaired. At the close of the poll the numbers for each candidate were :—Mr. Bell 1,186, Mr. Liddell 1,150. Mr. Liddell made his entry into Newcastle on the 8th of March, Mr. Bell the day following. The crowds which assembled on both occasions were so awfully dense, that many were nearly suffocated. One young woman had her thigh bone broken, another her ribs broken and otherwise dreadfully bruised. The mixture of carriages, horses, and people, was terrific in the extreme. An active canvas immediately after commenced on the parts of Mr. Bell, Mr. Liddell, Lord Howick, and Mr. Beaumont, for the general election.—*Ibid.*

March 18.—A fire broke out at the Lonning-burn, a farm in the parish of Elsdon, Northumberland, in the occupation of Mr. William

Armorer, of the Dunns, which entirely consumed the farm-stead and two cottages. Great exertions were used by the neighbours to stop the conflagration without effect. The stack-yard and other premises were saved by the wind being favourable.—*Local Papers*.

1826 (March 21).—Died, in St. Nicholas' poor-house, in Newcastle, Jane Young, aged 104 years. She was the daughter of Alexander and Margaret Young, and baptized at the parish church of Yetholm, on the 2nd of March, 1722.—*Ibid*.

March 25.—Died, at his house in Cavendish-square, London, after an illness of six weeks, the right reverend Shute Barrington, lord bishop of Durham, in his 93rd year. After an education at Eton and Oxford, where he was for some years fellow of Merton college, he entered into holy orders, was appointed chaplain to king George II., and afterwards to King George III. In 1761, he was made canon of Christ-church, Oxford, and a few years afterwards residentiary of St. Paul's. In 1769, he was consecrated bishop of Llandaff, and continued in that see till 1783, when he was translated to Salisbury. In 1791, he succeeded Dr. Thomas Thurlow, in the opulent see of Durham. In his episcopal character, bishop Barrington was a strict observer of discipline amongst his clergy, and made it his constant business to seek out such worthy and able men as were best entitled to preferment. His private beneficence was princely; and it is said that £100,000 would not exceed the amount of his benefactions. In 1809, he was involved in a law-suit respecting the rents of some lead-mines belonging to the see, the leases of which had expired for several years, without being renewed. On a discovery of the fact, a bill was filed in chancery to recover the arrears; and the cause on being sent down to the court of king's bench, was decided in favour of the bishop, who recovered thereby nearly £60,000; but, instead of taking any part of this sum to his own use, he appropriated the whole to the establishment of schools in his diocese, and the formation of a fund for poor clergymen and their widows. He had made a similar application of the proceeds which accrued to him on the division of Framwellgate and Brasside moors and Witton-Gilbert common. When bishop Barrington had held the episcopal office fifty years (including the time he was bishop of Llandaff and Salisbury), the clergy of the diocese of Durham erected, at the cost of £2300, a large charity-school at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and distinguished it by the name of "The Clergy Jubilee School," in commemoration of the event. During his last year, he spent several months at Worthing, in Sussex, where he resided in the mansion which had been for a short time occupied by the princess Charlotte of Wales. After about five weeks' illness at his town's house in Cavendish-

square, London, he read the appointed Sunday lessons to his assembled household, and feelingly told them it was for the last time. A few mornings after, on March 25, 1826, he expired tranquilly, and almost imperceptibly to his attendants, at the great age of 92. He was buried, according to his own injunctions, in the most private manner; his remains being deposited near those of his second wife, in the vault of Mongewell church.—*Local Papers*, &c.

1826 (March 25).—A tyrst fair for the sale of cattle, horses, sheep and swine, was held in Hexham, by order of the lord and lady of the manor (Mr. and Mrs. Beaumont), on the above day for the first time, and to be continued on the same day in every succeeding year.—*Ibid*.

March 30.—Between the hours of eight and ten p.m. a sublime and unusual electrical phenomenon was observed in the counties of Durham and Northumberland, consisting of a broad zone of white light, forming an exact arch across the sky. It appeared arising from the west as a streaming light, which passed between the two stars in Arion's shoulder, and, sweeping through the zenith, it proceeded through the tail of Ursa Major, and a little to the north of Corona Borealis, apparently perpendicular to the magnetic meridian. It rather decreased in magnitude near the zenith. Its greatest breadth appeared to be 4 or 5 degrees. The light was steady and regular, resembling the tail of a comet; but when seen through a telescope was scarcely visible.—*Brewster's Stockton*.

April 3.—Two men whose united ages amounted to 202 years were interred at Houghton-le-Spring, Durham, viz:—John Drew, of that place, aged 91 years, and Thomas Fletcher, of Philadelphia, in the same parish, aged 111 year. The latter retained his senses entire till within a few hours of his death. His grandfather died at the age of 120 years, and his sister at 102 years. His uncle was 105 years when he died, and he could read the smallest print the day before his death. He was in the train band of Mr. Shafto, of East Shafto, in the year 1745.—*Local Papers*.

April 14.—Died, at Sunderland, Jane Dryden, widow, aged 103 years.—*Ibid*.

April 23.—Dr. William van Mildert, was installed bishop of Durham, at London. July 21st, he arrived at the city of Durham, and was installed in the cathedral there.—*Ibid*.

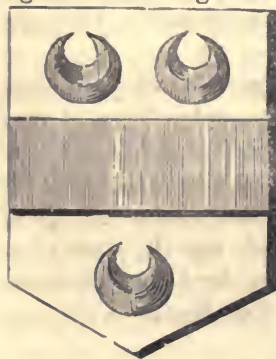
April.—This month, Mr. Thompson, farmer at Mindrum, Northumberland, discovered a brass urn, containing 600 Roman coins, most of which were in a state of excellent preservation. The coins were all of silver; in size they resembled a sixpence, but were nearly three times as thick, and presented such varieties in regard to date, die, and decorations, that they were probably regarded as an extraordinary

collection several hundred years ago. Numbers of them were dated before the coming of our Saviour; and the heads of Julius Cæsar, Vespasian, &c., were as clear and sharply outlined as the head of the sovereign on the coinage of the present day.—*Dumfries Courier*.

1826 (May 4).—Being ascension-day, the mayor of Newcastle, according to ancient custom, surveyed the boundaries of the river Tyne. In the evening, on the return of the barges, &c., from Newburn, and a little above the Crooked Billet, a small boat wherein were twelve persons, was unfortunately run foul of and upset by a steam-vessel, and a young man and a young woman, named John Lambton and Mary Gregg, lost their lives. Coroner's verdict, accidental death. Deodand on the steam-boat, £5.—*Local Papers*.

May 28.—Died, at Sedgefield, in the county of Durham, aged 71, Mr. John Reed. He was a man of most eccentric habits; and after his death were found deposited in his house, in old pockets, skins, bladders, tea-pots, and earthen jars, considerable sums of gold, silver, &c. Having died intestate, numerous relations claimed the treasure.—*Gent's. Mag.*

May 30.—An explosion took place in Townley Main, (Stella) colliery on the river Tyne, by which lamentable occurrence thirty-eight human beings lost their lives.—*Local Papers*.



June 5.—Died, at his house in Saville-place, Newcastle, aged 70. Charles Ogle, esq. For thirty-four years he exercised the functions of collector of customs, to the approbation of the mercantile members, and to the advantage of the trade, of Newcastle. He was assiduous, impartial, obliging, and just, in his weighty office. In social life, his amiable manners, honourable conduct, and hospitality, were extensively acknowledged, and will be long lamented.

At the conclusion of his active services by resignation about a year previously, the members of parliament for the town, the gentry from different parts of the county, the merchants, and respectable inhabitants, invited him to a sumptuous entertainment, and the chamber of commerce presented him with a costly vase of silver, delivered after an appropriate speech by their president.—*Gent's. Mag.*

June 9.—Died, in Morpeth, John Rastrick, an ingenious engineer, who claimed to be the inventor of the thrashing machine. Rastrick was born at Bowles's green, Morpeth, in 1738.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

June 12.—A fire broke out in the premises occupied by Mr. Moor, as a sail-cloth manufactory, in Queen-street, Sunderland, which at

first had a very alarming appearance, but, by the timely arrival of the engines, and the assistance of those present, it was got under without communicating to any of the adjoining premises.—*Local Papers.*

1826 (June 13).—About ten o'clock in the forenoon, a fire broke out in a tenanted house in Hornsby's-chare, Newcastle. It bore at one time a very alarming aspect, owing to a quantity of tar, in a merchant's cellar underneath, having caught fire, but, by the prompt arrival of the engines, and the praiseworthy exertions of the neighbours and individuals who had arrived on the spot, the fire was confined to the premises where it broke out, which were totally destroyed, with almost all the furniture of the inmates, who barely escaped with their lives.—*Ibid.*



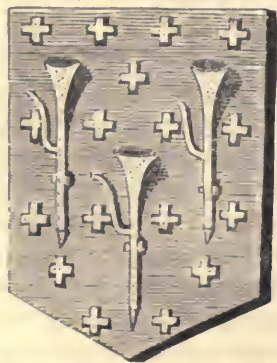
HEAD OF HORNSBY'S CHARE (1843).

June 13.—In consequence of T. W. Beaumont, esq., M. P. for Northumberland, Matthew Bell, esq., M. P. (who had succeeded Mr. Brandling,) lord Howick, and the hon. H. T. Liddell, having started as candidates for Northumberland, at the general election, a county meeting was ordered by the sheriff to be held at Morpeth on the above day, to consider who were proper persons to represent the county in parliament. The shew of hands was declared by the undersheriff to be in favour of the hon. H. T. Liddell and T. W. Beaumont, esq. June the 20th the polling commenced at Alnwick, and was carried on with great spirit until July the 6th, when the hon. H. T. Liddell and Matthew Bell, esq., were duly elected. The numbers

were,—Mr. Liddell 1,562, Mr. Bell 1,380, Mr. Beaumont 1,335, and lord Howick 976. His lordship declined the contest on the 3rd of July. On the 7th, the two newly elected members made their public entry into Newcastle, on which occasion immense crowds were assembled in the streets through which they were to pass, and the windows of the several houses in the line, were thronged with parties of elegantly dressed ladies, waving the colours of their favourite candidate. In Mr. Liddell's train there were about two hundred horsemen, and fourteen carriages. In that of Mr. Bell there were four bands of music, two hundred and fifty horsemen and upwards of thirty carriages of various descriptions. The number of splendid flags exhibited by the two parties were considerably above one hundred; the whole forming one of the most imposing electioneering processions ever witnessed.—*Local Papers.*

1826 (July 1).—In consequence of some expressions made on the hustings at Alnwick on the preceding day during the general election for Northumberland, a duel was fought on Bamborough sands between John George Lambton, esq., M. P. for Durham, attended by the hon. general Grey, and Thomas Wentworth Beaumont, esq., attended by Mr. Plunkett, when, after an exchange of shots, the affair was terminated to the satisfaction of the seconds.—*Ibid.*

July 6.—Died, Mrs. Jane Watts, wife of captain Watts, R. N., and youngest daughter of the late George Waldie, esq., of Hendersyde Park, Roxburghshire, and Forth House, Newcastle. This lady was distinguished by uncommon literary talents, and by her fine original paintings from nature, which commanded universal admiration in the exhibitions of the royal academy at Somerset-house, and were ranked with the works of the first artists of the day. Mrs. Watts was the author of "Letters on Holland," "Rome in the 19th century," and a very interesting novel entitled "Continental Adventures," 3 vols., &c. &c.—*Ibid.*



July 26.—Died, at his residence at West Jesmond, near Newcastle, aged 68 years, sir Thomas Burdon, knight, lieut.-col. commandant of the Tynemouth hussars, and of the 2nd Durham local militia, one of his majesty's justices of the peace for Northumberland, and formerly an alderman, and twice mayor of Newcastle. His lady, who had been dead some years previous, was a sister of the right hon. the earl of Eldon and the right hon. lord Stowell. Sir Thomas was distinguished for his loyalty, hospitality, and charity; and was

universally esteemed for the urbanity and kindness of his manners and heart. He had the honour of knighthood conferred upon him at Carlton-house by the prince regent on the 14th of May 1816.—*Local Papers.*

1826 (July 28).—Died, George Pickering, a minor poet of some local interest. He was the eldest son of a gentleman of the same name, who was successively land steward to sir Lancelot Allgood of Nunwick, and sir William Middleton of Belsay castle, in Northumberland. He was born at Simonburn in that county, about January, 1758; the register of his baptism being dated the 11th of that month, he received the rudiments of education at his native place, under Mr. Joseph Atkinson, a reputable and successful teacher. In 1770 or the following year, he was placed under the tutelage of the rev. Joseph Harrison, master of the grammar school of Haydon bridge, for education in the languages. In December 1776, Mr. Pickering became a clerk in Mr. Davidson's office at Newcastle; where after some little time, he was intrusted with the principal management of the stamp-office for that district. Here he was associated successively with Thomas Bedingfield and James Ellis, which last named gentleman published in 1815, a volume of poetry, the joint production of these three lawyer's clerks, and inscribed to the first literary character of the age. Pickering's name is intimately connected with a poetic fragment, bearing the impress of genius, but of questionable authority. "Keen blows the wind o'er Donocht-head," which Walter Scott thought worth committing to memory, first appeared in the Edinburgh Herald, and came to the editor of that paper bearing the Newcastle post-mark. Its being attributed to Burns, and his disclaiming the honour, with a compliment on the verses, are known to most readers. Several of Pickering's poems display much sentimentality: indeed they are more remarkable for tenderness of feeling than for originality of conception, both his subjects and the manner of treating them remind us of other poems by other poets—his Winter—his Father's Epitaph—and his Inn (probably the inn at Blueback near Allen-water), bring to our recollection Burns—Goldsmith—and Shenstone, even the celebrated 'Donocht-head' can scarcely be perused without thinking of Parnel's Beggarmen, and some verses containing a similar story beginning—"Around the Fire one Wintry Night." The piece entitled "The Moaning Clock and Hollow Wind," contains some natural and tender thoughts; particularly the stanza—"Placed by the midnight fire alone, I hear the passing hour depart."—But Pickering could trifle with the idlest at times; and the famous hoax played upon the Newcastle Courant, in the publication of a Lapland song, was the joint work of him and his colleague Bedingfield. The occasion was the following.

Sir Henry George Liddell and some other gentlemen, having made a voyage to Lapland, in the summer of 1786, and brought with them two female natives of that country; these wits invented a combination of syllables which had the appearance of poetry, and which was announced as a song sung by these natives of Lapland; this together with a pretended translation, appeared in the above paper, Sept. 2nd 1786; and the criticism, with a new translation, on the 21st of October following. Nay, so successful was the trick, that the song was set to music; and the first translation published in a quarto edition of the voyage, and was even copied into some of the London magazines, a happier literary hoax was perhaps never perpetrated. It is to George Pickering that we owe the truly original—"Ouk fruezen tharanno el torne van zien"—to Thomas Bedingfield, the very ingenious criticism; and to each of them a copy of verses called Translations—"as literal as the idioms of the two languages will admit!" After leaving the north, he spent some time at the house of an intimate friend, Mr. William Cooke, then settled in Norfolk, but a native of Hexham. His manners were volatile in the extreme; his ability for singing as well as writing, gained him admission into gay company, and he was often entertained at good tables; but his unrestricted indulgence at the bottle became disgusting even to those who were not themselves very temperate. The latter part of Pickering's life seems to have been involved in much obscurity: some portion of it was probably spent abroad. On his return to the north of England, his declining years and impoverished circumstances withdrew him from public notice. He was buried at Lamesley in the county of Durham.—*Compiled chiefly from Ellis' Memoir by Jos. Ridley.*

1826 (Aug. 5).—An iron, or suspension bridge, over the river Coquet, at Hepple, in Northumberland, was opened. It was projected by Mr. John Wilson, of Rimside. Its greatest span 90 feet, and was calculated to support a weight of six tons without suffering permanent alteration. The expense of erection did not exceed £30!!—*Local Papers.*

August 7.—A hackney coach was commenced running at Gateshead, in the county of Durham.—*Ibid.*

August 14.—A newly-erected extensive paper-mill at Scotswood, near Newcastle, was discovered to be on fire. Two engines from Lemington were immediately procured, and a person sent express to the Newcastle Fire office for the engines belonging to that establishment, but such was the nature of the materials of the mill, that the premises were soon a heap of burning ruins. The flames had a most terrific appearance, and ignited a part of an adjoining coal staith, as also a hedge, and some trees in the vicinity. Towards the evening,

and after the engines had left, the large stock of paper and other materials, covered by the falling of the walls, &c., again burst into flames, and, owing to a strong southerly wind, burnt with great fury, when several cottages occupied by the workmen, and a coal tar manufactory adjoining, were set fire to, and, had it not been for the exertions of the workmen in extinguishing the burning sheets of paper that were flying in all directions, they must have become a prey to the devouring element. An engine had again to be procured from Newcastle, and the fire was at length extinguished, after a destruction of property to the amount of £8,000.—*Local Papers.*

1826 (Aug. 27).—Being Sunday, a joiner was placed in the stocks in St. Nicholas' church-yard, in Newcastle, nearly two hours, for having disturbed the congregation in the church, by exclaiming "Bell for Ever," whilst the service was proceeding. He was in a state of intoxication at the time.—*Ibid.*

St. James' chapel, Blackett-street, Newcastle, a plain but exceedingly well-built stone edifice, with a fine massive portico, of the Grecian Doric order, was erected, from a design by John Dobson, esq., architect, at a cost of £2, 218, including the site. It was first opened for divine worship on August 31st, this year. The interior of the building is very tastefully fitted up, and will seat about 600 persons. It is occupied by a congregation of Independents, formerly meeting in Silver-street chapel. The north wall of St. James' chapel stands on the line of the ancient circummuration of the town, and one of its towers (Ficket tower), stood on the ground now occupied by its portico. The register of births and baptisms belonging to this chapel commences in 1746.—*MS. Col. Rep. of Parl. Com., &c.*



FICKET TOWER, NEWCASTLE (1825).

1826 (Sep. 5).—About six o'clock on the morning, an explosion took place in Heworth colliery, when three men and two boys were unfortunately killed, and ten others scorched and bruised. This explosion dashed to pieces the stoppings, brattices, and props, and brought down the roof in several places. Some of the men who were working in a distant part of the mine, were unhurt and even unconscious, until they came to bank, of the accident having happened.—*Local Papers*.

September 5.—The proprietor of *Alione* or Whitley castle, on the western borders of Northumberland, discovered, west of the bath, a large dung-hill, resembling a peat bog, and which he used in manuring his ground. It abounds with old shoes, all made right and left—those of men, clinker-built—those of ladies, without nails, but having ears for lace-holes, and under each hole a fringe of leather thongs, cut from scallop-shaped vandykes between each ear. Also, abundance of fragments of earthenware, green glass, armillæ of jet or fine cannel coal. The floors of the adjoining bath, made on pillars, first with a coating of mineral spar and lime, and then with layers of lime, brick, broken pottery, &c.—the spar such as is usually found where lead ore has been separated from the minerals with which it was found intermixed in the veins.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

September 23.—The lord bishop of Durham consecrated a new chapel of ease and a burial-ground attached, at Shincliffe, in the county of Durham.—*Local Papers*.

September 28.—A public accommodation was given to the inhabitants of Newcastle, by the addition of minute hands to the dials of the clock in the tower of St. Nicholas' church. The additional work was executed by Mr. William Tweedy, clock and watch maker, an ingenious mechanic, for Mr. John Smith, the keeper. The dials were also new gilt.—*Ibid.*

October 1.—The town of South Shields was first lighted with gas.—*Ibid.*

October 27.—An explosion took place in the high pit of Benwell colliery, near Newcastle, by which two young men, named Joseph Whitfield, and William Peel, were killed almost instantaneously. Several men were much injured. There were upwards of 100 men and boys in the mine at the time. The cause assigned for this explosion was, that Peel went with a candle into a part of the mine which he and the rest had been cautioned to avoid.—*Ibid.*

November 16.—Died, at Bishopwearmouth, Nicholas Haswell, aged 102 years.—*Ibid.*

November 20.—The foundation-stone of the suspension bridge across the river Wansbeck, near Morpeth, was laid. A roll of parchment, containing the origin and issue of the matter, in a latin

inscription, a newspaper, coins, memoranda, &c., in a bottle, hermetically sealed, were deposited in a cavity of the stone. Robt. Clark, esq., of Highlaws, after securing the cavity, mounted the stone, and, in a brief and appropriate address, pointed out the advantages of the undertaking, and wished prosperity and long duration to the structure. The stone was lowered amid loud cheers, firing of guns, and a merry peal from the neighbouring clock tower, and success to the bridge was most heartily drunk by the assembled populace. This bridge was built by subscription, to which the members of parliament for the borough were liberal contributors. It was finished in 1827.—*Local Papers.*

1826 (December 2.)—Died, in High Friar-street, Newcastle, Jane Robson, a poor woman, aged 100 years.—*Ibid.*

December 9.—Died, at his father's house, in Barnard castle, after a few months' illness, Mr. William Vasey, aged 24 years. This young man who had been a clerk to an attorney in Newcastle, evinced considerable talents as a poet, a critic, and a moralist, and although he did not leave much behind him, yet what he did leave reflects honour on his memory; his last piece is an "Address to the Breeze," written during his return from France, whether he had been in search of health; but this was denied, and soon after his return, he fell a victim to a rapid consumption which consigned him to an early tomb.—*Local Rec.*

December 22.—Died at Hexham, aged 70, the rev. Matthew Sharp, Roman Catholic minister of that place. Mr. S. was a native of Yorkshire, and previous to his settlement in Hexham, had spent many years on the continent of Europe, where he added to a respectable knowledge of the classics, a familiar acquaintance with modern languages, particularly French, which he spoke with the facility of a native. But these acquisitions were only the ornaments of a mind eminently gifted with the most excellent qualities. His amiable manners, added to his venerable appearance, procured for him the respect of all parties; whilst his charitable disposition towards those of another creed, shewed that it was no part of his religion to declaim against that of others. He was regarded in the little sphere in which he moved with filial affection, and his removal was marked by an uniform feeling of regret.—*J. R. in Tyne Mercury.*

This year, a wooden bridge across the river Tyne, near Haltwhistle, 272 feet in length, was completed; Mr. John Dobson, architect. It cost £700. raised by subscription of the vicar of Haltwhistle, and the neighbouring proprietors.—*Local Papers.*

A cairn, consisting of a vast heap of loose round stones, was opened in this year, in a field called the Callegers, half a mile



west of the village of Netherwitton, Northumberland, and on the south side of the river Font; but had nothing remarkable in it, excepting a few bones, and the very great size of the water-worn



slab of limestone which covered the kistvaen in its centre. There is another cairn in the same field, which has been partly despoiled of its stones, but apparently not rifled to its centre.—(*Hodgson's*

Northd.) The accompanying views of the barrow, which was about thirty feet in diameter, are from sketches by W. C. Trevelyan, esq., communicated to the Society of Antiquaries, Newcastle, by whom they were engraved, and through whose permission they here appear.

1827 (Jan. 4).—Died, at Bishop Auckland, Durham, Parkinson Wouldhave, aged 108 years.—*Local Papers*.

January 8.—On the arrival in Newcastle, of the melancholy intelligence of the death of his royal highness the duke of York on the 5th, the bells of the different churches commenced tolling at eight o'clock on the morning, the flag on the castle was raised half-staff high, and the flags of the various vessels at the Quay were similarly hoisted. The churches were in a few days hung with black, and every token of mourning exhibited. January 20th, the day of the interment of his royal highness at Windsor, Newcastle exhibited an appearance of great solemnity. By a signal gun from the castle, at eight o'clock on the morning the bells commenced their solemn tolling, and the vessels in the river hoisted their flags half mast high. The market, according to a request from the mayor, having been held on the Friday, the shops were all kept shut. The society of Friends also showed their loyalty and attachment to the present reigning family, in general having their shops and offices closed. At the custom-house, literary and philosophical society, &c., all business was suspended. There were prayers at all the churches, and the mayor, sheriff, aldermen, and other members of the corporate body, all in full mourning, preceded by their usual officers bearing the regalia, which were bound with black crape, went in procession to St. Nicholas' church, where service was most impressively performed by the rev. the vicar. The members of the Orange and Odd fellows' lodges went in procession to this church, displaying the ribbons of their orders. During the day several solemn peals were rung. At four o'clock, minute guns were commenced firing from the castle, which were continued until five o'clock, when the solemnities of the day ceased. The markets at Alnwick and Sunderland were also changed, on this occasion, from Saturday to Friday, and other signs of sorrow generally manifested.—*Ibid*.

About half-past five o'clock in the evening of the same day, the ship *Ossian*, of North Shields, lying in the Tyne, off Milburn place, was discovered to be on fire in her cabin. On the alarm being given several persons immediately went on board, some endeavouring to quell the fire, while others succeeded in getting the ship out of the tier, she being in the middle of about thirteen vessels. The progress of the fire was most alarming until the arrival of two engines, which confined it to the after part of the vessel, and about nine o'clock

succeeded in totally extinguishing it. How the fire originated could not be ascertained there being no one on board the vessel at the time it broke out.—*Local Papers*.

1827 (Jan. 16).—A new chapel, denominated the Union chapel, was opened at Blyth, for divine service, by the rev. Mr. Gilmore, of North Shields, and the rev. Mr. Duncan, of Sunderland, each of whom delivered appropriate and eloquent discourses. The chapel was furnished with every necessary appendage, through the persevering activity of a few ladies, in a manner honourable to themselves and expressive of their gratitude.—*Ibid*.

January 16.—Died, at Berwick Hill, in the county of Northumberland, aged 104, Mrs. Barbara Olive.—*Gent's Mag*.

January 17.—About one o'clock on the morning a fire broke out in Tanfield moor staith, at Dunston, near Newcastle. By the speedy arrival of the engines from the latter place, it was got under after a destruction to the amount of about £500.—*Local Papers*.

January 27.—In the building yard belonging to Mr. Mires, at South Shields, an attempt was made to launch the St. Hilda, a very fine ship of about 350 tons, belonging to Hall and Mires, she went a few feet, but in consequence of the ways shrinking, there stuck fast. They started her again on the 29th, when she went into the Tyne in fine style, amidst a great concourse of spectators.—*Ibid*.

January.—For several days the wind blew a complete hurricane. A new house in Brandling-place, near Newcastle, was entirely levelled with the ground, and the gable end of another thrown down. A new house in Gateshead also lost its gable. Numerous chimneys were thrown down, and the gardens and enclosures shewed its ravages. Several keels were sunk in the river Tyne; one with a valuable cargo of crown glass. At Sunderland, in some streets, the people rose from their beds in alarm, they were so shaken by the wind, and the tiles were flying about in all directions. At Shields, also, several ships broke adrift, and a Sunderland sloop got upon an anchor and sunk.—*Ibid*.

February 1.—Died, at South Shields, aged 34, Mr. Thomas Green, son of the late Robert Green, esq., of that place. This gentleman displayed his brave and humane character in rescuing, at the imminent peril of his own life, and when every hope had lapsed, the crews of two vessels wrecked near Tynemouth, on the 2d of December 1825.—*Gent's Mag*.

February 17.—The Betsy Cains of Shields, having sailed from that port with a cargo for Hambro' met with a heavy gale from E.S.E. and was obliged to bear up for Shields harbour, but when on Tynemouth bar, she struck, and was afterwards driven upon the rocks,

near the Spanish battery. This remarkable vessel would seem to have been built about the commencement of the seventeenth century, for before its conclusion, tradition reports that even then she was, "an old ship, but a lucky and fast sailer." The first positive data which we have connected with her are that she was Thames built, and was purchased either by the prince of Orange, or some of his adherents, to form part of the fleet destined to effect the glorious revolution of 1688. It is also said that the prince himself came over in this yacht; and that he gave it the name of the Princess Mary in honour of his illustrious consort, the daughter of James II.* With the success of her noble freight, her fame rose accordingly. During William's reign, she was employed as one of the royal yachts, but having undergone numerous and extensive repairs, her original build was greatly interfered with. She was at length the pleasure yacht of queen Anne, and was so known among nautical men. This we may safely term the meridian of her glory. On the death of her royal mistress, she was doomed to experience the vicissitudes inherent of all sublunary objects. By order of George I. she ceased to form part of the royal establishment; still she weathered it bravely under the protection of one of the lords of the court. On his disgrace, change after change assailed her. About the middle of the last century she was sold by government to the Messrs Walters, of London, and was rechristened the *Betsy Cains*, in honour of some lady connected with the West Indies;—in which trade she was long engaged. At length after manifold degradations, she was purchased by the Messrs Carlens, of London, and used by them as a *collier*, and was employed in the conveyance of coals between Newcastle and the metropolis. In this deplorable condition, she still maintained her character as a "lucky ship, and fast sailer." While in this employ, she was purchased about 1825 by George Finch Wilson, of South Shields, and under the command of Henry Wilson, was employed in the merchant service. After many weary years and heavy seas had rolled over her, and when she was still pursuing her latter avocation, her death blow was struck and an overwhelming sea threw her on the "Black Middens" a tremendous reef, just north of the mouth of the Tyne. The weather

* In the State Tracts "(vol. i. p. 56. fol. 1705,) it is said, that the Prince of Orange 'embarked in a frigate of twenty-eight or thirty guns;' but this, from the date of the account, Oct. 29, evidently alludes to his *first* embarkation, and before the storm arose which forced back the fleet. On the second, and successful attempt, "The Prince" says Rapin, (History of England, v. ii. p. 776.) "on the 1st of November, in the afternoon, embarked in a new vessel called the *Brill*." This evidence makes questionable the seamen's tradition of the *Betsy Cains* being the vessel that brought over the prince, from Holland, in the revolution fleet.



was remarkably unfavourable. A severe frost prevailed and a heavy fall of snow driven by a tempestuous wind raised the ocean to a terrible pitch of fury. In this fearful state of things, the old ship and its weather beaten crew were driven about by the enraged ocean with irresistible fury and no one expected the deliverance of one or the other; but the Northumberland life-boat, manned by a crew of hardy fellows, boldly put off and drove their vessel through the breakers with such success, that every human being in the ill-fated vessel, was delivered from a watery grave. The weather continued tempestuous but yet hopes were entertained that if there was a subsidence of the heavy sea, she might be got off, as much damage had not yet been done to the sturdy vessel. Before the 1st of March however she went to pieces. In this forlorn and melancholy condition, she presented an apt emblem of fallen greatness, and excited great public attention; indeed, at all times she was regarded with surprising interest, and wherever she lay the sailors crowded to see her;—the more so, probably from a memorable prophecy said to be connected with the fate of this venerable ship, viz:—that “the Catholics would never get the better while the Betsy Cains was afloat,” and now that her hour *was* come, can our hardy mariners (as remarkable for their superstition as for their bravery,) be wondered at, when they regarded the loss of the Betsy Cains as a serious injury to the Protestant cause. From the repeated repairs which this vessel had undergone, little of the original remained, yet the old sailor, and the practical shipwright could easily identify the peculiarities of her build. She was in length, eighty feet and three inches; in breadth (below the main wales) twenty-three feet. She had two decks, the height between which was six feet and a half. She was carsel built, was without galleries, square sterned and devoid of figure

head. She had two masts, a trysail mast, and was square rigged, with a standing bowsprit. The remnant of the original ship, however small, was very fine. It was oak, richly and profusely carved, approaching in colour, from age and exposure, to ebony. There was literally a scramble among the populace to obtain fragments. Those who could not obtain them by manual labour, were made to pay most exorbitant prices by those who made it their business to supply themselves with a large quantity of the crude material. Persons in Shields received letters from all parts of the country for fragments, and perhaps nearly all the Orange lodges in the kingdom made similar applications. Snuff boxes and other articles of memorial were made in immense numbers. Each of the members of the corporation of Newcastle-upon-Tyne was presented with one of these boxes; they are also very prevalent in the coal trade, being kept in memory both of the varied fortunes of the ship, and of the durability and inimitable qualities of the British Oak.*—*Newcastle Cour.*,—*Mech. Mag.*,—*Brayley's Graph. Illus.*,—*Whyhcotte of St. John's*,—*Custom House Books, &c.*

1827 (Feb. 22).—A young man named John Margetts, apprentice to a surgeon of North Shields, having been sent by his master, Mr. Greenhow, with some medicine to a sick person about five o'clock on the morning, most mysteriously disappeared, and has not since been heard of. He was about nineteen years of age.—*Local Papers.*

February 26.—About four o'clock in the afternoon, Alexander Brodie, the eldest wherryman on the river Tyne, plied a small boat on the quay, Newcastle, to the amusement of numerous spectators, the Tyne having risen several feet higher than ordinary, owing to the rapid thaw of the snow, &c. Many of the cellars on the Quayside were inundated, the water extending considerably up the Broad-chare. *Ibid.*

In the beginning of this year, the names of the streets, &c., in Gateshead were first put up.—*Ibid.*

March 1.—The wind corn-mill belonging to Mr. Butterfint, in Hendon-lane, near Sunderland, was destroyed by fire, which broke out between six and seven o'clock, and the wind being very high, baffled

* Of this Ship a painting was made by Mr. James Ferguson of North Shields, which was in the possession of the late Henry Hewetson, esq. of Seaton-burn. A lithograph was executed from this picture by Mr. Wm. Davison, of Sunderland. She was registered at Newcastle, March 16, 1825, number 167, at that time the property of Wilson. The same document from which this information is gained informs us that she was condemned as a prize to the high court of Admiralty, 16th of June, 1807, as appeared by a certificate of registry granted at London, on the 11th of Nov. 1818, number 362. Her tonnage was 183¹⁹/₆₄.

every attempt to extinguish it, although the parish engines were speedily on the spot, and well supplied with water. The mill was insured for £600. supposed to be only half its value.—*Local Papers.*

1827 (March 12).—Early on the morning, a rock of some tons weight, separated from its long abode, and came down with a tremendous thundering noise from a height of twenty yards, against a house in Bridge-gate, Barnardcastle, occupied by persons named Green and Dickinson. Instantly the side of the house gave way, and two children who were sleeping in a lower room were for some time buried in its ruins, but were taken out unhurt. When Dickinson awoke, who occupied an upper room, his bed was kept up by a holdfast to the other wall, the floor having given way, and the other side of the house having disappeared, he hung in his bed like a tenant of the air, but through assistance, all the inmates were rescued from their perilous situation.—*Ibid.*

March 27.—This month there was a contested election for the representation of the borough of Berwick upon Tweed. The candidates were sir Francis Blake, bart., and sir David Milne. The poll commenced on the above day, when sir Francis and sir David were both proposed. At the close of that day, the numbers were—for Sir F. Blake 238; Sir D. Milne 83. On the following day (Wednesday) another candidate, John Bayley, esq. of Upper Harley street, London, appeared and stated that the burgesses resident in London were on their way to support him. The numbers this day were—Sir F. Blake 231; Sir D. Milne 91; Mr. Bayley 3. On Thursday the poll finally closed when the numbers were—Sir F. Blake 312; Sir D. Milne 101; Mr. Bayley 4.—*Ibid.*

This month, a neat and commodious Wesleyan Methodist chapel was opened at High Coniscliffe, near Darlington. Sermons were preached by the rev. Messrs. Leach and Lord, after which £10. 15s. were collected towards the building of the chapel.—*Ibid.*

April 8.—A beautiful full-length figure of Christ, in stained glass, by Mr. John Gibson, of Newcastle, was placed in the great east window of St. Nicholas' church, in that town, at the expense of the corporation. It is an enlarged copy of a painting by Mr. Wm. Dixon, and the faithful manner in which Mr. Gibson has transferred it to the glass, evinces great skill as an artist, whilst the richness and pureness of his colours attest his proficiency in this very difficult art. Mr. Gibson, since that period, has produced many elegant and admired specimens, which have been introduced into windows, &c., of both public and private buildings.—*Ibid.*

April 18.—As the workmen in the quarries at Fulwell, near Sunderland, were removing a large block of limestone into a cart, and

finding it too large to lift, they broke the stone in two pieces, when, to their astonishment, an ask, about five inches long, with brown back and freckled belly, moved out of a cell in the solid block!—*Local Papers.*

1827 (May 5).—Died, the rev. Richard Wallis, A.M., rector of Seaham, and perpetual curate of St. Hilda, South Shields, Durham. Mr. Wallis was the eldest son of the rev. Richard Wallis, vicar of Carham (brother of the rev. John Wallis, the historian of Northumberland), and of Elizabeth, sister of the rev. John Rotheram, rector of Houghton-le-Spring. Mr. Wallis married the only daughter of the rev. John Robinson, rector and patron of the advowson of Seaham, by whom he had one son, John Wallis, A.B., of University college, who died unmarried, and three daughters, two of whom are living unmarried, and the third is the wife of Thomas Surtees Raine, esq. Mr. Wallis was distinguished through life by his strictest integrity. His disposition was retired, and he buried in the shade talents and acquirements of no common order. He cultivated music, painting, and engraving; his copies from the old masters, and his original sketches (many of which are preserved by his family), possess high merit; his knowledge of mechanics was very considerable, and several light essays and jeux d'esprit, in prose and poetry, attest his taste in composition. In his own circle, his discrimination and almost instinctive insight into character, and the originality and raciness of his observations, made him a most interesting companion. Mr. Wallis was the author of "Memoirs of the rev. John Rotheram," and of "The Group, a Poem," the plate of which includes portraits of the two brothers Rotheram, of the author, his wife and child, his sister Agnes, afterwards wife of the rev. Christopher Robinson, and of some other relatives. He met the gradual approach of age and infirmity with calm composure and real Christian resignation. There is a fine portrait of Mr. Wallis painted by R. Edmondstone, and engraved by G. H. Philips, at the expense of his family for private distribution. Mr. Wallis lies buried, by his own desire, under a spreading sycamore on the south side of Seaham churchyard, near the brink of the romantic dean.—*Local Rec.*

1827.—Through the exertions of the late rev. N. J. Hollingsworth, then incumbent of Haltwhistle, the new chapel at Greenhead, in the county of Northumberland was built, on ground given by colonel Coulson, from designs by Mr. Dobson, architect, Newcastle, and at an expense of about £800; £200 of which was contributed by Mr. Hollingsworth himself. It is fifty-four feet by twenty-five, with a tower eight feet square within, and is lighted by three lancet-shaped windows, between buttresses on the east, decorated with the arms of

the see of Durham, the earl of Carlisle, and colonel Coulson, besides other devices “beautifully delineated in stained glass by Mr. Gibson, of Newcastle.” The north and south sides have each four lancet-shaped windows, also between buttresses.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

1827.—This year, was removed the tower of Seghill, Northumberland, with the exception of two finely arched vaults on the ground floor, with numerous bold projecting ribs, in excellent preservation. These vaults are now incorporated with an inn which has been built on the site of the tower, and are converted into a kitchen and cellar. It stands on the north bank of Seaton-burn, one mile north of Burradon. Its walls have been of great strength, as may be observed in the recesses of the loop-hole-shaped windows of these apartments. Some of the upper rooms were ornamented with fine old tapestry and carved work in wood, which were only removed when the tower was taken down. The building consisted of three stories, with a lofty exploratory turret at one corner, from whence, in clear weather, the Yorkshire coast was distinctly visible. The tower was covered with lead, and in tolerable repair, even until the period of its demolition. By the first record we possess respecting it, it appears to have belonged to the Priory of Tynemouth in the year 1097; after a lengthened period we again discover that the manor was in the possession of Walter de Selby, who, having joined the Middleton rebellion, forfeited it to the crown in 1317. At this time Bertram de Monboucher was proprietor of the neighbouring castle and manor of Horton, and having suffered greatly during the stay of the rebel troops in his neighbourhood, Edward II. (in the following year) as a partial compensation for the injury sustained, granted him the lately forfeited tower and manor of Seghill, or as it is named in our authority* “Syhal” with all of its appurtenances, for life. Subsequently it was held under the Monbouchers and their successors, by the Delaval family, for, about the year 1416 “The Tower of Seghale” occurs as the residence of William Delaval. In the 6th year of Edward VI. (1553) it occurs as the manor of a younger branch of the antient family of Mitford. Exactly an hundred years from this date Robert Mitford occurs† as proprietor of this place, and in 1673 he added to the tower a mansion house which also has fallen to decay, together with a curious terrace garden with balustrades on the brink of each terrace, and adorned with statues, formed no doubt at the same time; but now sadly ruined and overgrown with rank weeds and filled with rub-

* *Calendarum Rotulorum Chartarum.* In the Tower of London, printed in Hodgson's Northumberland.

† *Rentals and Rates for Northumberland (1663)* printed in Hodgson.

bish. This Robert Mitford married Christian, daughter of the first Sir William Blackett of Newcastle, and left three sons who all died unmarried, and one daughter who married the Rev. — Laidman, vicar of Whalton. Their son, a surgeon in Morpeth, left no family. On their decease, Bertram Mitford (formerly a merchant at Bombay) claimed in right of settlement made on the marriage of his ancestors, to be entitled to a considerable sum of money charged on this estate, but died previous to a decision of his claim. He left an only child, Sarah Mitford, to whom, and to his wife, Sarah Mitford, he bequeathed all his property, share and share alike. The daughter married a person of the name of Spring, and the widow one of the name of Redshaw, who after considerable litigation, compromised their claims with Lancelot Allgood of Nunwick, esquire, the then owner of the estate. The Allgoods afterwards sold it to the late Sir Francis Blake of Twizell castle, whose son, Sir F. Blake, is the present proprietor.—*Border Castles. Hodgson. Mackenzie. MS. Col., &c.*



VAULT, SEGILL TOWER (1834).

CHAPTER XV.



URHAM having been miraculously pointed out as the abiding place of the body of St. Cuthbert, after having suffered inhumation, exhumation, and removal, so often as almost to exceed belief, became at once the seat of the see and the centre of attraction to the religious of the past ages. During the lapse of centuries his tomb has been opened several times to satisfy the curiosity of the superstitious, the religious, the antiquary, and lastly (which it our particular province to record) on Thursday May 17, 1827, having been (until that period) suffered to remain undisturbed, for nearly three hundred years. The marble stone which had been placed over his remains in 1542, was removed and such discoveries were then made as proved that the grave which it covered, contained the reputed remains of the sainted patron of the church of Durham. The blue stone was found to rest upon soil eighteen or twenty inches in thickness, beneath which was a large slab of freestone of nearly a similar size. In a walled grave beneath this stone, of the form of a parallelogram, appeared a chest of a similar shape, in great decay, made strong originally by rods of iron, with iron rings in its sides and ends. This was the *new coffin* made in 1542. The remains of an earlier coffin next appeared, probably that described in the investigation of 1104 as covered with skins, for there were observed upon it, evident traces of some such envelope. In connection with the fragments of the lid of the second coffin, were discovered towards its lower extremity, in a confused state, numerous human bones, some of them those of children. These were probably the relics preserved in the shrine at the dissolution, which might naturally enough have been enclosed in the new coffin prepared for the saint in 1542. These bones have been those passed off by the monks as the remains of the children slain by Herod. After these

relics were removed, a third coffin presented itself, which although in great decay, was of a character materially different from those already described. The character and decorations of the third chest proved it to be the self-same coffin, minutely described in 1104; and in consequence, the identical coffin in which the remains of St. Cuthbert were placed in Lindisfarne in the year 698. Its lid, and sides, and bottom, and ends, exhibited rude delineations in lines carved apparently with the point of a knife, of evangelists, apostles, saints, &c., and the inscriptions in connection with each figure were in characters used at the time of St. Cuthbert's death, and of a period long anterior to the settlement of the monks at Durham. In the lower end of this third coffin, and apparently placed beneath its lid, which was much broken, was discovered a full grown skull in a somewhat decayed state. This was probably the reputed skull of Oswald, king of Northumberland, the only human relic which was suffered by the investigators of 1104 to remain in the coffin of Cuthbert. When the fragments of the lid, sides, and ends of the last mentioned coffin were removed, its contents along with the bottom on which it rested were raised from the grave and placed by its side—and then it was discovered that the dark, dingy mass of matter before the eyes of the investigators, consisted of a human skeleton swathed in robes (originally) of great beauty, but most of them in great decay. The outer envelope, portions of which were adhering to the coffin, had apparently been of linen; and such was the outer envelope in which Cuthbert had been swathed in 1104. The other robes were so tattered, torn, and confused, that the exact situation of each could not be ascertained. One was of thin, amber coloured silk, ornamented with a pattern of an armed knight, riding on a richly caparisoned steed and other decorations, especially a border of rabbits. These ornaments had been covered with leaf gold portions of which still remained. A second was of thick soft silk, decorated with a pattern representing the sea, with porpoises and water fowl (perhaps the eider duck, still called Cuthbert's duck upon the Farne islands,) disporting themselves in its waves, in colours of red, yellow, and purple. The decorations of these two robes seem apparently to have reference to Lindisfarne, and its natural history. A third, of silk, had a ground of amber, with a diaper pattern of a lighter tint, the whole surrounded by a border of thick lace of a Roman pattern woven in the loom. A fourth, of silk—colours, purple and crimson, ornamented with crosses; and a fifth, of silk also,—colours, purple and crimson, embellished with a pattern in oval of an urn supported by griffins, &c. These robes seem to correspond with the general description of those in which the saint was

enveloped in 1104. Amid these decayed robes were found other relics of greater interest. 1. A coarse comb of ivory which corresponds most minutely with the ivory comb found and left in the coffin in 1104. This comb had been fabricated by Elfred the sacrist, about the year 1022, for the purpose of assisting to cut the hair of



STATUE OF ST. CUTHBERT BEARING THE HEAD OF OSWALD, KING OF NORTHUMBRIA, THE FOUNDER OF HIS SEE. ON HIS SHRINE IN DURHAM CATHEDRAL.

the saint, which was reported to require that operation periodically; and as often as it was performed, a portion of the hair which was removed was exhibited to the spectators glittering like gold, and miraculously triumphing over the fire to which it was applied. Will it be believed that this pretended hair was in very reality gold wire itself; a quantity of which was found in connection with the scull of the skeleton during the investigation of which we are writing?

2. A small tablet of wood covered with silver, probably the silver altar spoken of as contained in the coffin in 1104. The thin covering of silver was so much broken during the removal, that a few letters only of an inscription upon its surface could be preserved. The tablet of wood, upon which the platform of silver had been laid, had apparently been used in its ornamental state for the same purpose of an altar, as it also contained an inscription in the characters of the seventh century proving that it had been fabricated in honour of St. Peter.

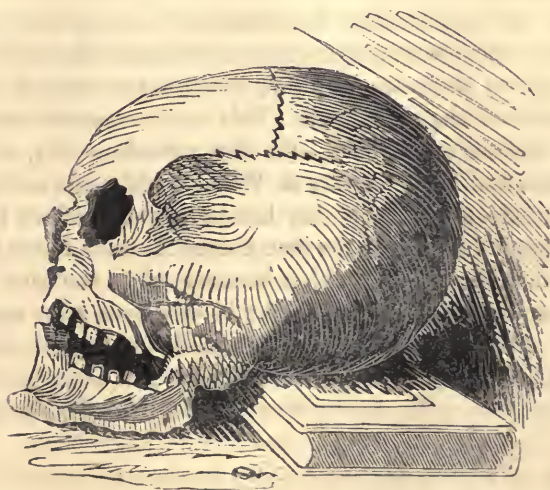
3. A small sacramental burse of the size of an octavo book, made of fine linen, and reduced by time to a dusky brown colour, as if it had been tanned.

4. A rich stole, woven with flattened threads of pure gold, and ornamented with inlet figures in tapestry work of prophets, and apostles, and evangelists, with the name of each in legible characters of silk, and an inscription in similar characters, proving that it had been made by command of Ælflæd, for the pious Bishop Frithestan.

5. A maniple of the same material, similarly ornamented, and containing a similar historical inscription. These splendid specimens of ancient art and munificence could not be removed from the skeleton in an entire state, but the greater part of both was saved; and thus a most valuable addition has been made to our knowledge of the Saxon art of weaving and embroidery. Frithestan, for whose use these robes were made, was consecrated bishop of Winchester in 909 or 910, nearly a century before Durham was pitched upon as the final resting-place of Cuthbert; and at that period there were three Ælflæds, one the daughter of king Alfred, and the wife of Ethelbert, earl of Mercia, a princess of great wisdom and resolution, and intimately connected with the civil and military history of her times. Another, Alfred's daughter-in-law, the wife of Edward the elder, his son and successor; and the third, his grand-daughter, a nun in the abbey of Winchester; and in all probability, from her connection with that place, the princess by whose command these gorgeous habiliments were made. At all events they were brought to Chester-le-Street, then the seat of our northern see, in the year 934, by king Athelstan, and offered to St. Cuthbert.

6. A girdle and two bracelets, woven with threads of pure gold and scarlet silk; the former

flattened like those of the stole and maniple above described. 7. A maniple of gold and scarlet silk of the most ingenious and ornamental texture, but from its shape and character belonging to a period a full century posterior to the year 1104; and, therefore, placed within the coffin after that period. 8. A cross of pure gold, as has been ascertained by investigation, found upon the breast bone of the skeleton, slung from its neck by a cord of silk and gold thread, running through a bright loop of the latter material, and set with fifty three stones, apparently garnets. The cross with the stones, weighs 15 dwts. 12 grs. When the skeleton of the saint was laid bare, the bones, although no longer connected by sinews and ligaments, were found to be perfect, and smooth, and dry, and in their respective places. Those of the right arm were in an elevated position, as if giving the benediction. The length which they occupied upon the bottom of the coffin measured five feet eight inches from the extremity of the scull to the ancle. The ribs and the bones of the feet had fallen from their places. A portion of the front of the scull was *faintly* marked with a tint of gold, of the breadth of a ribbon or fillet. In 1104, there was observed a fillet of gold, set with precious stones, upon the forehead of the saint. Portions of the face cloth, which at that time *was not permitted to be raised*, were also discovered; and two round artificial balls, of a whitish colour, were found in the cavities once occupied by the eyes. We subjoin an engraving of the scull, from a drawing made on the spot, and have only to say that it strictly corresponds with the description of the scull of Cuthbert, as it was seen through the cerecloth, in 1104. The bone of the nose was then observed to turn



rapidly outwards, and the tip of his chin was furrowed with a line of such a depth that a finger might almost be laid in the cavity. The result of this investigation proved that these were the reputed remains of St. Cuthbert, and that the story of his incorruptibility was the invention of the monks of Lindisfarne. With the exception of the bones already mentioned, the inner coffin appeared to have at no period contained animal matter, as no traces of flesh and blood were found, even in their most decomposed state. The dust and ashes, in connection with the skeleton, were those of the various robes in which it had been clad from time to time, to give it the bulk and appearance of a body in a state of preservation; and, still further, to keep up that appearance, the cavities of the eyes had been purposely stuffed with a composition, that the face-cloth, which, as we have already stated, was not suffered to be raised in 1104, might be fitly supported, and exhibit externally the form of eye-balls below. The bones of Cuthbert, and the other human relics found in his grave, were re-interred the same evening, in a new coffin, with the various fragments of the two external coffins already mentioned, and the grave was closed as before. Such portions of the inner coffin as were preserved, including one of its rings, with the fragments of the silver altar, and that of wood, together with the cross, the ivory comb, the stole, the two maniples, the bracelets, the girdle, the gold wire from the scull, the remains of the five outer robes, and some of the rings of the outer coffin made in 1542, were removed into the manuscript closet of the Library, where they are now carefully preserved.—*Raine's Dur. Cath.**

May 22.—Died, in the poorhouse at Sunderland, Wm. Geddes, aged 101 years.—

May 24.—Being Ascension day, there was an unusually grand shew to accompany that worthy magistrate, Archibald Reed, esq., mayor of Newcastle, in the annual survey, according to ancient custom, of the boundaries of the river Tyne. This festive occasion was attended with some melancholy events. On the preceding day, at Messrs. Losh, Wilson and Bell's foundry at Walker, whilst the workmen were trying some new guns which they had prepared to salute the barges on the following day, one of the men named Andrew Percy was in the act of striking the ramrod with a hammer when the gun exploded, and his bowels were so lacerated that he died soon after reaching the infirmary. Another man was hurt, but his wounds were not serious. On the Thursday, as the barges were passing Mr. Reay's raff-yard, at Walker-quay, on their return from Shields, another man, named

* From which also, are copied the two accompanying illustrations.

Thomas Bell, was so dreadfully injured by the bursting of a large gun, that he died in a few hours after being removed to the Infirmary, at Newcastle.—*Local Papers.*



INFIRMARY, NEWCASTLE, EAST FRONT (1827).

1827 (May 29).—The new Catholic chapel at Darlington, though then in an unfinished state, was opened to the public, when high mass was celebrated by the right reverend Doctor Smith, and an eloquent and impressive sermon was preached by the rev. Richard Gillow, of Ushaw college. The solemn service was attended by a numerous and respectable assemblage of persons of different religious persuasions, who testified their gratification by a subscription of £31. 14s. 10½d. towards defraying the expenses incurred by the erection of the sacred edifice. This is a very neat and commodious place of worship, seventy feet long and forty feet wide, and designed by Ignatius Bonomi, esq. It is in the gothic style, yet simple and unadorned. About forty years ago, the whole catholic population did not exceed twenty individuals, who assembled in a room. At present, independent of any influx of strangers, and though till the year 1824, they were attended but once a month by a priest from Stockton, the catholics of Darlington amount to about two hundred. The congregation from the country rather exceeds that number, and this circumstance, added to the bad state of the old chapel, rendered necessary the present erection. The rev. Wm. Hogarth is the incumbent.—*Local Rec.*

May 30.—A neat and commodious chapel, for the use of the Independent denomination, was opened for public worship at Staindrop,

when the rev. W. H. Stowell, of North Shields, the rev. J. Jackson, of Green Hammerton, and the rev. J. Parsons, of York, preached on the occasion.—*Local Papers*.

1827 (May 31).—The new Catholic chapel, at the east end of Old Elvet, in the city of Durham, and dedicated to St. Cuthbert, was opened with great ceremony. High mass was performed by the rev. Dr. Smith, bishop of Bolino, and vicar apostolic of the northern district, assisted by the rev. R. Gillow, of Ushaw college, the rev. Thomas Gillow, of North Shields, and others; and an appropriate sermon was preached by the rev. James Wheeler. A band of fifteen musicians from Madame Tussaud's exhibition and the theatre, executed one of Mozart's grand masses with great effect. About 400 persons were present, and a collection made in aid of the building, amounted to upwards of £49, which was ultimately increased before the close of the day by private contributions, to upwards of £90.—*Ibid*.

May.—At this time the church at Newburn was undergoing considerable external and internal repairs, much of it being rebuilt; the windows had all new stone mullions, and the altar window was considerably improved by stained glass being inserted.—*Ibid*.

June 7.—Died, at Birch's nook, near Stocksfield-hall, Northumberland, John Green, husbandman, aged 101 years. His descendants, at the time of his death, amounted to above 100 persons.—*Ibid*.

June 8.—The London General Steam Navigation Company's Steam packet, the Hylton Jolliffe, with two engines of 100 horse power, arrived for the first time at Newcastle from London, which place she left on the 6th of June. She sailed from Newcastle on the 9th of the same month on her return to London, and to continue sailing between those places during the summer season.—*Ibid*.

June 12.—A new bowling green was opened in Newcastle, on which occasion the members (about twenty in number) dined in a temporary hotel upon the ground. Mr. Crawhall acted as president, and Mr. George Burnet, as vice-president. The bowlers were honoured with the company of the mayor, sheriff, and town clerk. The bowling-green is on the north-west side of the town, without the walls, on a plot of ground, formerly called the Mayor's field, as also the Warden's close, adjoining the Bath-lane.—*Ibid*.

June 13.—A fire broke out in the workshop of Mr. Edward Swinton, cabinet-maker, in Fenkle-street, Alnwick. The engines belonging to the town were quickly on the spot, but the flames were not extinguished until the house was totally destroyed.—*Ibid*.

June 14.—A fire broke out in a joiner's shop at Lumley Forge, which destroyed the building and its contents.—*Ibid*.

June 18.—The foundation stone of a chapel of ease to Bishopwear-

mouth church, was laid in John-street, by the rev. Dr Wellesley, the new rector, who had arrived at that place on the 16th, and was inducted into the living on the 17th. This edifice was consecrated by the bishop of Durham, October 14th, 1829.—*Local Papers*.

1827 (June 23).—A handsome silver medal was presented to Thomas Wilson, of Holy Island, pilot, by the Royal Humane Society, for his meritorious conduct in rescuing the lives of his fellow creatures from a watery grave when shipwrecked.—*Ibid*.

About this time, at Springwell colliery, near Ayton Banks, the trunk of an ash tree, measuring about four feet in length, was sawn into four divisions, when there was discovered in the very heart of the tree, a perfectly formed bird's nest with one egg. The trunk appeared perfectly sound with the exception of the part which contained the nest.—*Ibid*.

July 3.—The lord bishop of Durham held visitations and confirmations, for the first time, in various of the towns of his diocese, commencing with his visitation at the city of Durham on the above day, and ending with his confirmation at Stanhope on the 3rd of August.—*Ibid*.

Same day, an experiment was made at the head of the quay, Newcastle, with an apparatus belonging to the North British Fire Office, for the purpose of rescuing persons from the upper part of a house when on fire. It had a pole and a basket worked by mechanical means in the street, and completely answered the purpose intended.—*Ibid*.

July 4.—The remains of the duke of Gordon, attended by several mourning coaches and six, decorated with all "the pomp of heraldry," arrived at the Queen's head inn, Newcastle, and departed northward the next morning. It was rather a singular circumstance, that on the 11th as the remains approached Gordon castle, the east wing of that structure was in flames, and with its contents was destroyed. The duke's apartments were in this wing.—*Local Rec*.

Same day, during the race week at Newcastle, Mr. Baird's bay colt, Freebooter, by Champignon, out of Orange Boven, when near ending his exercise on the morning of this day on the race ground, dropped down and expired. He was full of life and play at the setting off. The rider escaped without injury.—*Ibid*.

July 5.—Two men were burnt to death at Morton lime kilns, near Staindrop. They had attended the kilns for several years, and on this day as a kiln did not sink after they had added some fresh stones to it, they incautiously went upon it to make it do so, and unfortunately they both slipped in; one of them to his waist, and the other nearly over head.—*Local Papers*.

Same day, the lord bishop of Durham and suite, arrived at the

mansion-house, Newcastle, for the first time after his elevation to that see. His lordship held a visitation at St. Nicholas' church, the next day, and afterwards entertained the clergy, the mayor, sheriff, &c., at the Assembly-rooms. The following day, his lordship held a confirmation in the same church. The mansion-house was his lordship's residence during his stay.—*Local Papers.*

1827 (July 9).—The bishop of Durham held a confirmation at Ryton, and on the afternoon of the same day laid the foundation stone of the new church of St. Paul, at Winlaton in that parish. There was a masonic procession and a numerous assemblage of spectators. This church was opened and consecrated, September 9th, 1828.—*Ibid.*

July 12.—The Scots church at Monkwearmouth, in connexion with the established church of Scotland, was opened for divine worship, The rev. John Wood, A.M., commenced the service; afterwards the rev. Henry Gray, A.M., of Edinburgh, and the rev. Robert Balfour Graham, of North Berwick, preached impressive sermons on the occasion. This building is from a design by Mr. John Dobson, of Newcastle, architect.—*Ibid.*

July 16.—About eleven o'clock in the forenoon, a column of dust, &c., arose, as if caused by a whirlwind, at the south-east corner of the ballast-hills, near Newcastle. It assumed the form of a pyramid, about seventy feet high, and moved in a direction towards the row of houses on the north-east side of the open space in front of the burial ground, against which it broke and nearly smothered a poor woman who was carrying a basket of earthen ware. It was partly composed of small stones and cinders, and was as broad at the bottom as a large hay stack.—*Ibid.*

July 20.—About four o'clock on the morning, nine men were burnt by the fire-damp in the Charles pit, Lumley colliery; some of them severely. The accident was caused by a young man named Foster, going to a wrong part of the pit with his candle. There were upwards of 200 men and boys in the pit at the time. August 3rd, Robert Oughton, one of the sufferers, died in consequence.—*Ibid.*

Same day, the burgesses of Berwick in guild assembled, unanimously voted an honorary ticket of the freedom of the borough to the lord bishop of Durham, then in that place on his first tour through his diocese. The worshipful the mayor, and bailiffs, town-clerk, and coroner, accompanied by David Logan and John Steavenson, esqrs., waited upon his lordship at the inn, and presented him with it. His lordship expressed himself highly gratified by the honour.—*Ibid.*

July 23.—The committee of the common council of Newcastle, to whom the subject had been referred, determined upon the model on which the new chapel of St. Thomas was to be constructed near the

Barras-bridge, at the north entrance of the town, in lieu of the old chapel at the north end of Tyne-bridge, then about to be taken down to widen the entrance from the southward. Three models were exhibited, and one of the two brought forward by Mr. Dobson was preferred. The model which was of the style of the 13th century, was executed under Mr. Dobson's directions by Mr. Welsh, junior, of Gateshead. The other model was furnished by Mr. Green, of Newcastle, architect, to whom the decision was officially communicated in very handsome terms by the town-clerk, stating that the committee considered his design as highly creditable to his talents, although the resolutions to which they had come, not without difficulty, occasioned the adoption of another.—*Local Papers*.



VAULTS BENEATH ST. THOMAS'S CHAPEL, TYNE BRIDGE END (1827).

1827 (July).—Died, at Mitford, near Morpeth, aged 22, Mr. Henry Walker, a native of Jamaica; who by his will, left 2*l*. and freedom to every slave on his estate there.—*Gent's. Mag.*

July 31.—The corner stone of a new Presbyterian chapel was laid at Warkworth, in Northumberland, for the congregation in connexion with the united secession church of Scotland, by the rev. David Patterson, of Alnwick, in the presence of the committee of management, and several of the respectable members from Alnwick and the neighbourhood. There was a deposit of the several coins of George IV., and several silver coins of an ancient date, also a MS. bearing the date of the building, names of the committee, architect, and contractors for the building, inclosed in glass, sunk in the stone

and covered with a plate of iron. Sunday, May 1st, 1828, this building was first opened for divine service, on which occasion the rev. James Pringle, of Newcastle, preached on the morning; the rev. Henry Lawson, of South Shields, in the afternoon, and the rev. Robert Pollock, in the evening, when collections were made towards defraying the expences of the building.—*Local Papers.*

1827 (Aug. 4).—Under this date the following notice was given:—"NOTICE TO FARMERS."—The hiring of labourers and reapers for the harvest will not be permitted as heretofore at Sandgate, or within any part of the liberties of Newcastle, on the Sabbath day.—Archibald Reed, mayor." In consequence of this notice a bill was posted stating that a hiring would be held at the Westgate, on Sunday, the 19th, after church hours, which took place accordingly, for the first time, and was continued during the time of harvest, annually till the year 1842, when, by an order of the town council, it was discontinued.—*Ibid.*, &c.

August.—This month, great damage was caused in Glendale Ward, Northumberland, by immense floods.—*Ibid.*

August.—In the foundation of an old house, which had this month been pulled down in Tynemouth, large quantities of human bones were dug up, many in a perfect state.—*Ibid.*

August.—At this time there was residing in good health at Ferry-hill, Durham, a woman, named Catherine Moralee, then in the 107th year of her age. At the time the great flood carried away Newcastle bridge (1771), she was confined to her bed, in childbirth, and was carried out of the house to a place of safety.—*Ibid.*

September 5.—An explosion of gas took place at Fawdon colliery, near Newcastle, when three young men were much burnt, two of whom shortly afterwards died.—*Ibid.*

September 8.—John Chisholm, apprentice to a butcher in Berwick, was sent to the Magdalen Field to bring in a sheep for slaughter. He caught it near the Redout, where the beach is very precipitous; the animal began to struggle, and, being on the verge of the precipice, not less than forty or fifty feet high, both tumbled over. Fortunately for the lad, the sheep was undermost, and was killed on the spot. The young man was completely stunned by the fall, and received some very severe contusions. He was carried home in a state of insensibility, but finally recovered.—*Ibid.*

September 9.—A new Wesleyan Methodist chapel was opened at North Cowton, near Darlington, when sermons were preached by the rev. N. Bann, of Barnardcastle, and Mr. John Kepler, of Darlington, and collections were made in aid of the funds.—*Ibid.*

September 24.—His grace the duke of Wellington visited Stock-

ton, on which occasion, at the entrance to the High street, a lofty triumphal arch was erected, formed of laurel, &c., surmounted by seven flags, with appropriate mottoes. As he had to dine at Wynyard, the seat of the marquis of Londonderry, there was a grand procession of the nobility, gentry, &c., in carriages, and on horseback, to meet the hero of Waterloo, which they did at Yarm bridge. His grace immediately entered lady Londonderry's carriage, which was drawn by six horses; the procession then returned to Stockton. Previous to entering that town the horses had been taken from the carriage in which he rode, and he was drawn by a number of men, wearing blue ribbons, inscribed "Wellington for ever," through the triumphal arch to the Town-hall, amidst the firing of cannon, &c. On the arrival of the illustrious stranger near to the Town-hall, the mayor, recorder, and aldermen of Stockton, and the mayor, recorder, and aldermen of Hartlepool, in their robes, approached the carriage to present an address from each of those corporate bodies; and colonel Grey also advanced with an address from the inhabitants of Stockton and its neighbourhood; to each of which his grace replied. The illustrious party afterwards partook of a cold collation in the assembly-room which was most tastefully and appropriately fitted up for the purpose. After many healths had been drunk, his grace intimated to the mayor of Stockton that a party was engaged to meet him at dinner at Wynyard; his grace and other visitors then rose, and, bowing to the company, took leave amidst the most deafening cheers. The party assembled by invitation of the marquis of Londonderry to meet the duke of Wellington at dinner, were the earl and countess Bathurst, earl Grey, marquis of Douro, the bishop of Durham and his lady, lords Beresford, Ravensworth, and Castlereagh, hon. and rev. Dr. Wellesley, hon. Henry Thomas Liddell, sir John and lady Ann Beckett, sir Roger and lady Sophia Griesley, sir Henry and lady Emily Hardinge, sir Thomas Lawrence, sir Henry Browne, sir Cuthbert Sharp, generals Aylmer and Seddon, Matthew Bell, esq., M. P., Rev. Dr. Phillpotts, R. Burdon, esq., colonel Freemantle, Dr Forbes, and Mr. Stapleton.—*Local Papers.*

1827 (Sep. 28).—His grace arrived in Newcastle, where every preparation had been made to receive him. A temporary platform was erected in front of the Guildhall. It was of wood, but coloured to resemble stone; the steps and stage were covered with cloth. The Guildhall was decorated with flags, and several were suspended from the windows of private houses. The ships in the river had all their decorations floating in the air. A new flag was prepared for the castle, containing 500 yards of cloth, the seaming of which extended 1,500 yards. About half-past two o'clock the Tyne hussars, com-

manded by lieutenant-col. Campbell, and the Northumberland and Newcastle cavalry, and the dismounted troop, commanded by lieutenant-col. Bell, mustered on the Town-moor, for the purpose of being inspected by his grace. The lancers from the barracks kept the ground. A few minutes before three o'clock a guard of honour of the lancers passed into Gateshead, to receive his grace.* About an hour after, the bells of Gateshead church announced that the duke was at hand, and, on his reaching the blue-stone on Tyne-bridge, the roaring of the castle guns, and those of the ships in the harbour, and the ringing of the bells of all the churches, announced that the "Hero of Waterloo," was then making his entry into "Canny Newcastle." His grace had left Wynyard that morning, accompanied by most of the illustrious visitors who had assembled at that place on the 24th to meet him, and the whole had come forward in carriages to partake of the well-known hospitalities of the mansion-house of Newcastle. At the head of Gateshead the horses were taken from the open carriage which contained his grace, the marquis and marchioness of Londonderry, and field-marshal Beresford, preceded by an excellent band of music, and twelve men bearing banners inscribed with the names of his grace's greatest battles; it was drawn by the people to the front of the platform on the Sandhill. His grace then alighted, and, handing out the marchioness, who leaned on his arm, ascended the steps, and received the hearty welcome and congratulations of the right worshipful Archibald Reed, esq., mayor, and the numerous group of members of the corporation, and other individuals. The other carriages drove up in rapid succession, and the distinguished visitors having alighted, they were received by the mayor, the aldermen, sheriff, and common council, and their friends. The recorder then proceeded to read the address of the corporate body, after which the mayor presented the freedom of the town to his grace, who in very courteous terms returned thanks. The mayor then, filling a glass of wine, stepped to the front of the platform, and said, "my friends and fellow townsmen, I drink to the health of the illustrious hero, his grace the duke of Wellington." This was followed by three hearty cheers from the multitude assembled in front, amid the thunder of cannon and the ringing of bells. His

* On the visit of the duke of Wellington to Newcastle, a circumstance took place on Gateshead Fell, which is worthy of record.—While fresh horses were putting to the marquis of Londonderry's carriage, at the sign of the Cannon, a veteran accosted his grace, and the latter entered into familiar conversation with him. The duke, finding this individual had been with the British army in several of the victories gained by his grace, generously gave him a sovereign to drink his health, which the old soldier would, no doubt, punctually observe, as he facetiously replied, that he always strictly attended to the orders of his superiors.



ENTRANCE TO THE SIDE FROM THE SANDHILL, NEWCASTLE WITH KATY'S COFFEE HOUSE, THE LORT BURN &c. (1640).

Designed from old views, plans, existent and lately existent remains, &c.

grace briefly returned thanks. The vicar of Newcastle and several of the clergy were then introduced to his grace. Christopher Cookson, esq., then presented to his grace the address of the inhabitants in an elegant speech, in which he was much applauded. The duke seemed to listen with much attention, and as soon as Mr. Cookson had concluded, his grace addressed that gentleman and the other members of the deputation from the inhabitants of the town. The above proceedings having terminated, the carriages were ordered up, and the illustrious party took their seats, and, according to previous arrangements, the procession moved off to the moor, the carriage in which his grace sat being drawn by the populace. At the Barras-

bridge his grace, accompanied by his gallant companions in arms (the marquis of Londonderry and field-marshal lord Beresford), alighted, and, mounting their chargers, proceeded to the Town-moor, to inspect the troops there assembled. It was near six o'clock before the review was finished, and, as the evening had set in foggy and wet, all hurried off the ground as quick as possible. The dinner at the mansion-house was of the most splendid description. It was served up in three rooms, and the number that sat down was about 240. An excellent band of music played during the dinner, and the toasts, &c., given by the mayor, were announced to the rooms by the sound of the horn. To give the loyal and appropriate toasts and speeches during this festive occasion would far exceed our limits. The ball at the Assembly-rooms was attended by 656 ladies and gentlemen. The merry dance was led off by lord Ossulston and the marchioness of Londonderry, to the tune of "The Keel Row." The duke of Wellington left the rooms about one o'clock for Ravensworth castle, where he slept. The carriage was attended by twelve torch bearers on horseback, six before and six behind. By a request from the mayor, the shops were all closed on this occasion. A view of his grace's reception on the Sandhill was etched by Mr. John Archer.—*Local Papers.*

1827 (Oct. 4).—The duke of Wellington visited Sunderland, when a grand dinner was given to him in the exchange. The ladies of Sunderland and the Wearmouths having entered into a subscription to form a triumphal arch across the High-street at Sunnyside, a most elegant structure, covered with evergreens and flowers, was raised at their expense. On the top of the arch, in the centre, a standard, bearing the arms of the United Kingdom, waved majestically, and over it was a long streamer inscribed "THE LADIES' WELCOME TO WELLINGTON." On each side of these were three flags, bearing the names of some of the duke's splendid victories. The arch was an object of universal admiration. At night an effulgent star produced by gas, was suspended under it, and had a most brilliant effect. On the front of the exchange were the words "WELCOME TO WELLINGTON AND HIS BRAVE COMPANIONS IN ARMS." This building was also decorated, exterior and interior, with variegated lamps. The duke reached Sunderland about five o'clock; he was drawn into the town by a number of men who had taken the horses from his carriage. In passing under the triumphal arch, roses and crowns of laurel were dropped into the carriage of the duke by three young ladies dressed in white who were placed on the centre of the arch. The pressure in the High-street as the duke advanced towards the exchange was really frightful. On arriving opposite to the exchange, his grace alighted

from the carriage, and, accompanied by the marquis and marchioness of Londonderry, &c., proceeded to a platform erected in the street, and was there received by George Robinson, esq., sir Cuth. Sharp, Addison Fenwick, esq., and other gentlemen of Sunderland. An address was then read and presented to his grace by Mr. Robinson, to which his grace made a suitable reply. Three hearty cheers were then given by the gentlemen within the exchange, and immediately answered by the multitude without. On leaving the platform, the distinguished visitors entered the exchange, and about half past six o'clock proceeded to the spacious dining-room (news-room), which was very tastefully fitted up for the occasion. The marquis of Londonderry, at the request of the committee of management, took the chair, having on his right hand earl Bathurst, the marquis of Douro, lord Beresford, hon. captain Cochrane, sir Henry Hardinge, lord Castlereagh, and Mr. Stapleton; and on his left, the duke of Wellington, lord Ravensworth, sir Walter Scott, hon. and rev. Dr. Wellesley, hon. H. T. Liddell, sir Roger Griesley, and the hon. Thomas Liddell. Sir Cuthbert Sharp filled the vice-president's chair. The number who partook of the dinner was 204; above 100 applications for tickets were refused, the arrangements not admitting a larger number than the party accommodated. After many healths and toasts and several excellent speeches, the chairman intimated to the company that his friends and himself must bid them farewell, their attendance at the ball-room being expected. The assembly-rooms were crowded to excess, and the noble party did not retire until after one o'clock. The ball was opened by the marquis of Douro and marchioness of Londonderry, and they were followed by the marquis of Londonderry and lady Sophia Greisley.—*Local Papers*.

During his grace's stay in the northern counties he visited the bishop of Durham, at Durham castle, where, with the nobility and gentry of the county, he was entertained with a very splendid banquet. The duke also paid a visit to John Buddle, esq., at Painshers, where he partook of a cold collation, and afterwards visited some of the collieries, in company with that gentleman.—*Ibid*.

1827 (Oct. 4).—A new methodist chapel was opened for divine service at Hurworth, near Darlington, by Mr. William Dawson, of Bramham, near Leeds, and the rev. Robert Wood, of York, after which £23. 10s. were collected in aid of the funds.—*Ibid*.

October.—A human skeleton apparently that of a full-grown man, was found at Hayston-hill, near Houghton-le-spring. Two men employed at the limestone-quarry at that place having been ordered to remove the soil from a part of the hill opposite to the quarry, found the skeleton at a depth of about two feet from the surface

It was doubled up in a manner which left no doubt of murder having been committed. The teeth and a part of the hair still remained attached to the skull, and the marl around the skeleton was much discoloured, apparently by the recent decomposition of the body.—*Local Papers.*

1827.—This year, as the ship *Ann*, captain Hutchinson, of Shields, was leaving Aberdeen for Newcastle, a pair of sparrows were observed to commence building their nest under the slings of the fore-yard, and, what appears very remarkable, on the vessel's arrival at Dent's Hole, on the river Tyne, a little below Newcastle, the birds went on shore and brought materials to finish their house.—*Ibid.*



COTTAGES, DENT'S HOLE.

November 3.—The freeholders of Northumberland, and friends of Matt. Bell, esq., presented him, at the assembly-rooms, Newcastle, with an elegant piece of silver plate, a candelabrum, value £500.—*Ibid.*

November 9.—The marquis of Londonderry was presented with the freedom of Newcastle, on which occasion, the bells of St. Nicholas' church rung several merry peals.—*Ibid.*

On this occasion, during the ringing of the bells of St. Nicholas' church in Newcastle, one of the pinnacles at the top of the lantern was observed to be in a very tottering condition, in consequence of which, a scaffolding was erected and the steeple examined, when it was found to require very considerable repairs. The iron cramps, from the coverings of lead having been torn off by the violence of the wind, were much decayed, and the cement with which it had been filled in various places about thirty years before, was in a great measure destroyed. It therefore became necessary that the steeple should undergo a thorough repair by the insertion of new cramps of

copper instead of iron, and filling up with Roman cement those places which required it. Several of the small pinnacles were replaced with new mason work, the vanes were repaired, the whole of them regilt, and the steeples pointed. Strong iron bands were also put round the pinnacles at the corners of the tower, and inserted into the cross beams. These repairs continued until December 21st, when the scaffolding was taken down.—*Local Papers*.

1827 (Nov. 11).—Died, Thomas Graham, aged 102 years, he was a native of Northumberland, and was employed to drive a baggage waggon at the time of the rebellion in 1745.—*Gent's. Mag.*

December 5.—About eleven o'clock in the forenoon, as Mr. John Nicholson, son of Mr. John Nicholson, of Newcastle, and pupil of Mr. Henzell, surgeon, was riding along Sandyford-lane, near Newcastle, his horse ran away, and in making the turn at Sandyford-bridge, the animal struck the battlement and fell, but it immediately rose and leaped from the bridge into the rocky channel below, being a depth of thirty-six feet perpendicular. The unfortunate young man was so dreadfully bruised and injured, that he lingered, in an insensible state until seven o'clock in evening, when he expired. It is a singular fact, that when the horse struck the battlement, the coping stone which had "LAMBERT'S LEAP" cut upon it, was thrown off into the dean below and broken in pieces. There is a strange coincidence in these two accidents:—They were both young men, and the leaps had been both made at the same part of the bridge. The only difference is that Mr. Lambert survived and his horse was killed, but in this instance the horse was so little injured, that a person rode it into town for assistance.—*Local Rec.*

December 9.—Died, at Morpeth, aged 101 years, Elizabeth, widow of John Rutherford, who was son to Baldrick, the last lord Rutherford, and heir to the title and estates.—*Gent's. Mag.*

December 24.—Died, at Chelsea, near London, Mr. John Scott, the celebrated animal engraver. Mr. Scott, who was a self-taught artist was a native of Newcastle, where he served his time as a tallow chandler. His first piece which came before the public, was an engraving, in group, of the king, queen, and dauphin of France, for the "Historical View of the French Revolution," published by M. Angus, in 1796. This astonishing performance was done without any previous instruction. Mr. Scott afterwards removed to London, where he finished several hundreds of engravings, which are all in high estimation. "The Sportsman's Cabinet," "The Sporting Magazine," Mr. Daniel's "Rural Sports," and other works of a similar nature, owe much of their reputation to the exquisite delicacy and truth of Mr. Scott's graver. His engraving of "THE COTTAGE" in the "Fine

Arts of the English School," is perhaps his finest piece, but what established his fame most were his two large prints "BREAKING COVER" and "THE DEATH OF THE FOX," after Gilpin and Reinagle. For these exquisite specimens of the art, Mr. Scott was on the 28th of May, 1811, presented with a large gold medal by the Society of Arts, and at the same time received a very high compliment from his royal highness the duke of Sussex, in the presence of a large assembly of the nobility and gentry. These prints are possessed by every lover of art who prize pictures of animals and field sports. In March 1821, this artist suffered a sever paralytic stroke, from which he never afterwards recovered. Mr. Scott published in 1823 a portrait of his mother, Mrs. Mary Scott. There is a good portrait of this artist painted by Mr. Jackson, R.A., and engraved by Fry.—*Local Rec.*

1827.—Horton chapel, Northumberland, was rebuilt. The old chapel was of very ancient foundation. The parish registers contain entries of baptisms from 1648, of marriages from 1660, and of burials from 1725.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

1828 (Jan. 11).—Died, in Pilgrim street, Newcastle, after a short illness, aged 62, Mr. William Henderson, a native of Northumberland. In the early part of his life he worked as a pitman, and having received an injury, he was admitted a patient of the Infirmary, Newcastle. Here he contracted an intimacy with one of the nurses of that institution, whom he married. On the erection of the House of Recovery in 1804, Mrs. Henderson was appointed matron, and Mr. Henderson became inspector, which situation he held until his wife's death. Having during the time he was attached to this institution, acquired (as he said) more knowledge of medicine than all the faculty put together, he added Doctor to his name, and published a very ludicrous and eccentric book entitled "Every Man his own Doctor, in the treatment of Fever, and other important diseases incident to the human frame. Being the result of 22 years' practice and observation of the treatment and cure of various diseases. With Rhymes to gratify the mind. By William Henderson, late Inspector of the Fever Hospital, Newcastle-upon-Tyne," with a portrait prefixed. As a specimen of his abilities in the rhyming way, it is only necessary to give the memorable lines from the title-page of his book.

"In the country and the town,
Here wisdom may be found;
This book in a pupil's hand,
Will make him a wiser man;
His voice may give the sound,
And say, 'tis worth a hundred pound"!!

For this hundred pounds' worth of invaluable information, he modestly charged 3s. 6d. It was "Printed for the author by J. Marshall, Old Flesh Market, 1827." It consists of 86 pages; the portrait, which is prefixed to this morceau of a book, is engraved by Mr. Isaac Nicholson, from a painting by Parker, and is an excellent likeness. This work is a treat as it is, but what would it have been, if given in its original orthography? After the doctor's publication appeared, he received various letters signed "Robert Southey" and other fictitious names, lauding his pre-eminent abilities; all of which this very simple man believed to be genuine, and carried them about his person for exhibition; indeed there seemed nothing in the shape of praise too monstrous for him.—*Local Rec.*

1828 (Jan. 17).—John George Lambton, esq., M. P., for the county of Durham, having been created a peer by the style and title of baron Durham, of the city of Durham, and of Lambton castle, in the county of Durham, a new writ for an M. P. for the county was issued January 29th, when he was succeeded on the 13th of February in the same year, by William Russell, esq., of Brancepath castle, Durham.—*Ibid.*

January 27.—Sunday evening lectures commenced in St. John's church, Newcastle, for which purpose it was first lighted with gas.—*Local Papers.*

January 28–29.—Died, in Pandon bank, Newcastle, within a few hours of each other, John Anderson, mustard manufacturer, and Mary his wife. She died on the evening of the 28th. and he on the morning of the 29th. They were both interred in one grave, attended by a large number of friends.

"John Anderson, my Jo, John,
We clamb the hill thegither,
And mony a canty day, John,
We've had with ane anither:
Now we maun totter down, John,
But hand in hand we'll go,
And sleep thegither at the foot,
John Anderson, my Jo."

Gent's. Mag.

About the beginning of this year, a curious phenomenon astonished, and not a little alarmed, the villagers of Norton, in the county of Durham. In a field in the immediate vicinity of that place, an aperture in the ground was discovered, from which a hissing noise issued, louder than can be imitated by the human voice. It was examined with some attention by several gentlemen who had the earth removed, by digging to a considerable depth around the hole, with a view to ascertain the cause, but without effect. Some of the

less enlightened believed the whispers which proceeded from the aperture to be hints of an approaching earthquake, while others fancied they could hear, through the fissure, the sound of hammering in the lower regions. Certain it is that for some time the noise was daily and hourly heard. It is probable that it was occasioned by a rush of some description of gas, with which the earth, in that particular place had been overcharged; and, if so, its escape was more likely to prevent, than portend, an earthquake.—*Gent's. Mag.*

1828 (Feb. 11).—Died, at Wallsend, Ann Usher, aged 102 years, who, during the last thirty years of her life, had received parochial relief to the amount of £157. 18s. from that place.—*Local Papers.*

This month, the new gaol and house of correction at Newcastle were finished, and the prisoners, &c., were removed to that building from the castle.—*Ibid.*



GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT IN THE CASTLE OF NEWCASTLE (1826).

CHAPTER XVI.



ON Sunday the 17th of February, 1828, between one and two o'clock, as two boys, named John Martin and William Lee, 11 and 12 years of age, (the former belonging to Pandon, the latter to Pilgrim street, Newcastle), were sliding on a pond in the brick-yard, at the Shield-field, unfortunately the ice broke under Lee's feet, and he sunk; but, rising again, he caught hold of the firmer part of the ice. Martin, perceiving the dangerous situation of his companion, hastened to assist him, and in endeavouring to pull him out of the water, more of the ice gave way, and they both sunk; poor Martin to rise no more! but Lee again appeared and again caught hold of the ice, and kept his head above water. By this time many people had gathered about the pond; but none of them rendered efficient assistance, till a young man, named Matthew Robinson, apprentice to Messrs. Mackenzie and Dent, printers, came to the spot, who, at the peril of his own life, went along a plank, and though the ice broke in with him, and he was immersed to the armpits, he happily succeeded in rescuing Lee from a watery grave.—*Local Papers.*

February 18.—At Barnard-castle, a woman, aged 63, engaged to walk one hundred miles in twenty-four hours, which she completed in twenty hours!—*Ibid.*

February 18.—A splendid ball and supper were given by the bachelors of Durham and its neighbourhood, to the ladies and gentlemen of that city and the adjacent country, which took place at the Assembly-rooms. The company began to assemble soon after nine o'clock, and before ten most of the visitors had arrived. The room at that period presented a perfect galaxy of beauty,

rank and fashion. The dresses of the ladies were remarkably splendid and tasteful, and the coup d'œil extremely brilliant. The dancing commenced at ten o'clock, and was kept up with spirit till one o'clock, when the party was summoned to the most elegant supper ever served in Durham upon any occasion. John Allan, esq., of Black-well, presided, and he gave a peculiar zest to the entertainment by the felicitous manner in which he acquitted himself in the chair. He delivered a very entertaining speech in proposing the health of the ladies who had honoured the bachelors with their company, and concluded, by expressing a hope, that their fascinations might have the happy effect of inducing some of his fraternity to change their stato of life. The supper being concluded, and several appropriate toasts drunk, the party returned to the ball room, when dancing was resumed and kept up with unabated spirit until a late hour in the morning.—*Local Papers*.

1828 (Feb.).—This month a sepulchre of large dimensions, and of rude form and construction, was discovered at Millfield-hill, in Northumberland. It differed entirely from any of the tumuli which had before been opened in that neighbourhood. Some teeth and pieces of bone, evidently the remains of human bodies were found, and also several teeth, so large, that they must have belonged to an animal of no less size than a full-grown horse.—*Ibid*.

March 4.—Early in the morning, a pugilistic encounter took place in a field near the town moor, Newcastle, between Miles Railton, a butcher, and Robert Entwistle, of the Close, in that town, in which the latter was so severely bruised, that he died in a few hours. Railton, who, with others his companions, had been before the judges at the preceding assizes for Newcastle, was committed by the coroner, for trial on a charge of Manslaughter.—*Ibid*.

March 13.—The Tyne yeomanry hussars were finally disbanded, and returned their arms and accoutrements to the stores in Gateshead. In taking leave of the corps, lieut. col. Campbell addressed them at considerable length, thanking them for the gratifying attention he had at all times experienced, during the many years he had served in the regiment, and more particularly for the zeal and alacrity evinced in obeying his orders, during the period he had had the honour of commanding them. The corps had existed since the year 1794, it being then first embodied under the command of lieut. col. Peareth of Usworth house. How often they had been called upon to aid the civil power, both in the county of Durham and Northumberland, it is not necessary to state precisely; though it may be safely averred that, upon all occasions affecting the public peace (and these, from various causes, had not been few in the neighbourhood of New-

castle, during the thirty-four years they were embodied), their able services—tendered with mildness, and yet efficiently—had essentially contributed to the preservation of order, and in fact, had very frequently accelerated the moment of tranquillity.—*Local Papers.*

1828 (March 15).—An explosion took place in Jarrow colliery, by which unfortunate event eight men lost their lives. No exact account of the cause of the accident could be given, but the coroner and jury were satisfied that no blame could attach to any person, as the pit was considered in a good state and well ventilated.—*Ibid.*

March 18.—The town of Sunderland presented an unusual degree of bustle and excitement. It having been previously determined by a large portion of the inhabitants that, on the departure of the depot of the 83rd Regiment from that place for Hull, some mark of respect should be paid for the humane disposition manifested by major Sumnerfield and his brother officers, and the good and soldier-like conduct of the privates, whilst stationed there, at six o'clock, A.M. the whole population seemed in motion. A chair, profusely decorated with evergreens and ribbons, was waiting at the barrack gate, into which the gallant major was invited, or rather forced, by the crowd to enter, and amidst the ringing of bells and huzzas of the almost countless multitude, was carried shoulder height at the head of the division, nearly to the first toll bar on the road to Durham. The band playing "God save the King," the major here left the chair, and mounting his charger, addressed the regiment and the people, in a manly, soldier-like and affecting manner. This address was immediately followed by "Rule Britannia" from the band, and after three cheers by the soldiers, they marched off, amidst the acclamations of one of the largest numbers of people ever assembled in Sunderland.—*Ibid.*

March 23.—Died, at Alnwick, Mr. Alexander English, formerly of Rothbury, aged 107 years.—*Ibid.*

March 27.—Died, aged 72 years, highly respected, Mr. Ralph Dees, who held the situation of master of St. Nicholas' and All Saints' free-schools in succession for forty-two years, and had been secretary to the Schoolmasters' association for above thirty years. He was an unassuming and upright man, an excellent penman, and a good teacher.—*Ibid.*

This month, an elegant window, in stained glass, by Mr. John Gibson, of Newcastle, was put up in Stockton church. The centre represents Christ bearing the cross, with other attributes, portrayed in a very superior manner. The placid countenance of the Redeemer is finely expressive of a heavenly meekness and resignation. The remainder of the window is filled with most beautiful and chaste ornamental work, and the whole so harmonises as to give it a most impos-

ing and striking appearance. Mr. Gibson's colouring, in point of brilliancy, is allowed to surpass every thing of the kind hitherto exhibited.—*Local Papers*.



DETAILS OF THE SOUTH DOOR OF MITFORD CHURCH (1830).

1828 (April 1).—A meeting was held at Mitford, near Morpeth, and a subscription was entered into for the purpose of erecting a wooden bridge over the river Wansbeck, at the High Ford, where many lives had been lost in attempting to cross at that dangerous place. From the liberality of the neighbouring and other gentry, it was resolved that a bridge of stone should be erected.—*Ibid*.

About ten o'clock at night, a fire broke out in Mrs. Crowther's premises at the Ouseburn, near Newcastle, the under part of which she occupied as an iron-foundry, and above was a steam corn-mill, in the occupation of Mr. Hetherington, and a small shop rented by another person. It was supposed that the fire originated in some timber attached to the engine of the mill, and the whole of the building being of wood, such was the rapidity of the flames, all was soon a mass of burning ruins. The soap manufactory on the opposite side of the road was in imminent danger, but was saved by the playing of the engines and the exertions of those in attendance. Mr. Hetherington had in the mill about two hundred bolls of wheat, and a large quantity of flour, which were totally destroyed; but his stock, as well as the

whole of the premises and the goods were insured, with the exception of the stock of the poor man who rented the shop.—*Local Papers*.

1828 (April 6).—On the evening of this day (Sunday), the ancient chapel at the west end of Durham cathedral, called the Galilee, was opened for the first time for evening lectures, and divine service was performed by the rev. P. George, one of the minor canons, assisted by Mr. Stimpson, one of the choristers, as clerk. After which the rev. W. N. Darnell, delivered an excellent lecture.—*Ibid*.

April 11.—A fire was discovered in a stable of Mr. R. Lamb, in Blue Anchor-chare, on the Quayside, Newcastle. There were two horses in it; one of them was so much burnt, that it was considered necessary to kill it, the other died from the effects of the fire, which was soon got under.—*Ibid*.



April.—Whilst the workmen were trenching the ground, for planting, at Villa real, near Sandyford, Newcastle, they found a curious rude stone coffin, composed of six flag stones, containing the skeleton of a tall man, in complete preservation, with an urn standing by the side of his head. It appeared to be one of the most perfect specimens of the ancient British sepulchral vases that had been found. Mr. Blackbird, the proprietor of Villa real, presented it to the Society of Antiquaries, Newcastle.—*Ibid*.

April 21.—The branch from the bank of England commenced business in a house at the south west corner of Bailiff Gate, in Newcastle. The notes are the same as the parent institution, excepting that they are dated Newcastle.—*Ibid*.

April 22.—The foundation stone of a new catholic chapel was laid in Hexham, by the rev. Mr. Singleton, of that place. Although the time of the ceremony had not been previously announced, yet a great number of spectators were present.—*Ibid*.

April 23.—About six o'clock on the morning, a fire having a most

terrific appearance, broke out in the extensive paper manufactory of Mr. Smith, at Langley, near the city of Durham. When first discovered, the flames were ascending through the ventilators on the roof of the new part of the building, and very near to Mr. Smith's dwelling house. The alarm was instantly given, and in a few minutes Mr. Smith's workmen and neighbours were on the spot. Intelligence having been speedily conveyed to Durham, the fire engines soon afterwards arrived at Langley, where also a great number of persons had assembled, who made the most praiseworthy exertions to subdue the destructive element. The room in which the fire broke out was used as a drying loft, and a great quantity of paper, in an unfinished state, was hanging upon lines within it. This burnt with amazing rapidity, and the timbers of the roof becoming ignited, very soon gave way under the weight of the slates, and the whole fell in with a tremendous crash. Masses of burning paper now rose into the air, and were scattered to a considerable distance. The fall of the roof, by checking the flames, gave an opportunity to those who worked the engines to play upon the building with effect, and the opportunity was not lost. From the great efforts now made, the fire was entirely subdued before nine o'clock. The damage was estimated at about £1,000. The property was insured.—*Local Papers.*

1828 (April 30).—The remains of the late Mr. George Henderson, of St. Ann's row, Newcastle, were interred in the burial ground attached to St. Ann's chapel in that town; and from its being the first interment in this extensive ground, a large concourse of people assembled on the occasion, and the solemn and impressive service was read by the reverend the vicar (Dodd), to whom the public are indebted for the great desideratum,—an additional cemetery, connected with the established church, which has since been opened as a place of general sepulture. The chapel and chapel-yard were consecrated by bishop Trevor, in 1768.—*Ibid.*

Died, at Bath, aged 93 years, sir John Trevelyan, bart., of Nettlecomb, Somersetshire, and of Wallington, Northumberland. Sir John was returned member for Newcastle, March 14th, 1777, after a severe contest with the celebrated profligate adventurer, Andrew Robinson Stoney Bowes. Sir John was a member in the three succeeding parliaments for Somersetshire.—*Ibid.*

This month, while some workmen were employed in draining a field near Seaham, Durham, the property of the rev. O. J. Cresswell, rector of that place, they discovered in a very marshy part of it, and at a depth of about eight feet from the surface, an oaken coffin, containing human bones. The coffin fell to pieces on being exposed to the air.—*Ibid.*

1828 (May 1).—A new Presbyterian chapel belonging to the United Secession congregation at Warkworth, Northumberland, was opened for divine service, and after appropriate sermons by the rev. James Pringle, of Newcastle; the rev. Henry Lawson, of South Shields; and the rev. Robert Pollock, of Buckhaven, on that day and the following Sabbath, the sum of £28. 14s. 8d. was collected for defraying the expences of the building. The chapel is conveniently situated in the suburbs of the town, by the side of the Coquet. It is built in a substantial manner, and commodiously fitted up in the interior. The entrance front is of polished stone, well executed, and the whole has a very compact and neat appearance.—*Local Papers*.

May 2.—Died, at Bishop Auckland, John Clay, aged 100 years.—*Ibid*.

May 6.—Hude chapel (Baptist), Middleton Teesdale, founded. The register of births, 18 entries, extends from 1829 to 1836.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

May 7.—The Court of Conscience first established in Newcastle in the year 1689, and held every three months, was, on the above day, commenced being held monthly.—*Local Papers*.

May 14.—Died, in Newcastle, in his 87th year, Archibald Henderson, better known by the appellation of "Bold Archy." He was of great stature and muscular power, and though his appearance to many was terrific, yet he was very inoffensive in his manners. Bold Archy is immortalized in several local songs written by Mr. Robert Gilchrist in the Newcastle dialect. He also forms one of the characters in the group of "Newcastle Eccentrics," painted by Mr. Parker, and engraved by Mr. Armstrong. In this group (14), all living in 1819, there is now (1843), only one in existence;—viz: Whin Bobby.—*Ibid.*, &c.

May 24.—Saturday, Mr. John Samuel Fenwick, eldest son of Mr. John Fenwick, of Brinkhaugh, near Felton, Northumberland, met with a premature death by the hands of his own father, and in the following manner. Between nine and ten o'clock in the morning, the deceased, his father, and the servant girl, were all in the parlour together. The deceased was standing at a desk, and his father close to him, with a gun in his hand, which he told the servant girl he meant to take to Morpeth with him that day, intending to go thither on business. The son handed to the girl a key, and requested her to go to a closet up stairs, and bring down a bottle of spirits, in order that his father might take some before going away. The girl took the key, and when just about leaving the room, the deceased's father presented the gun to his son's left side, and, melancholy to relate, fired it off, the contents penetrated his side, passing

through his body and coming out at his right side. He immediately fell down, sprang up again, rushed out of the room, and ran towards the barn, a few yards from the house. On reaching the barn door, he fell down. The barn man came out, and asked him what had befallen him? He said his father had shot him, but for what reason he could not tell. Others of the work people near at hand had collected around him to give him succour, and in the agonies of death he shook hands with them, and immediately expired. The deceased was a fine young man, just about twenty-four years of age, and was much esteemed and respected by all his acquaintance. The deceased's father had loaded the gun with a piece of brass to accomplish the horrid deed. He was committed under the coroner's warrant, to the county gaol at Morpeth, on a charge of wilfull murder; and at the Northumberland assizes, held at Newcastle, on the 8th of August, following, he was tried, and acquitted on the ground that he was insane at the time of committing the offence.—*Local Papers*.

1828 (May 29).—The ancient custom of singing on the steeple of the cathedral at Durham, on the anniversary of the above day, was revived at that church. At the close of divine service, the choristers ascended the steeple, and sung the three anthems formerly used on that elevated station.—*Ibid*.

June 5.—The "United Kingdom" steam packet, of 1,000 tons, came into the river Tyne for a supply of coals. This vessel, which was then the largest of the kind belonging to Great Britain, was on its passage from London to Leith.—*Ibid*.

June 11.—The farm-house at Snipe house, near Alnwick, occupied by Mr. John Marshall, was destroyed by fire, supposed to have been occasioned by a foul chimney.—*Ibid*.

June 11.—The northern Academy of Arts, which was commenced building in Blackett street, Newcastle, September 15th, 1827, was first opened to the public, with a very superior display of paintings by London, native, and other artists. There were also exhibited very splendid and costly models of St. Paul's, London, and St. Peter's, at Rome, the property of lady Ravensworth, who, for the gratification of the public, sent them from the museum at Ravensworth castle. This exhibition closed on the 13th of September. This building was again opened, October 6th, for the "Exhibition of pictures by the most celebrated, ancient, and deceased masters, selected from the best collections." The building, both exterior and interior, does great credit to the projectors. The first exhibition of drawings in water colours took place in this institution on the 31st October, 1831, presenting another display of superior talent.—*Ibid*.

1828 (June 11).—The ceremony of laying the foundation stone (at the entrance door) of the rectory-house, for the parish of St. John, Gateshead fell, was performed by the workmen. Refreshments were distributed to the persons present, and each was presented with a card containing the following inscription:—"The foundation stone of the building intended for the Rectory-house for the parish of St. John, Gateshead Fell, was laid this 11th of June, 1828, on which day the site was named and will ever afterwards be called Hawksbury Hill."
—*Local Papers.*

June 20.—During a violent storm of thunder and lightning, Robert Turnbull, a married man, 32 years of age, servant to H. Dinning, esq. of Newlands, near Belford, Northumberland, while driving a cart of manure, was, together with the horses, struck instantly dead by the lightning. The unfortunate man's hat was rent to pieces, one of his temples, his breast, and the under side of one of his cheeks were a little blackened. There was no mark on either of the horses, nor did the cart, chains, or trapping receive any injury.—*Ibid.*

June 22.—Died, at Pelton, near Chester-le-street, Isabella Eddy, widow, in her 107th year.—*Ibid.*



June 25.—The common council of Newcastle, established a new corporate company, entitled "The Company or Fraternity of Scribes of Newcastle upon Tyne," of which Nathaniel Clayton, Christopher Fenwick, Percival Fenwick, Armorer Donkin, John Adamson, Peregrine George Ellison, John Brown, John Clayton, Henry Ingledew, Robert Anthony Purvis, George William Cram, Thomas William Keenlyside, Thomas Dove, Matthew Clayton, Richard Hill Gee, Edward Hemsley and Ions Hewison (attorneys), free burgesses, were

declared members, and they were consequently enabled to bestow the freedom of the town upon their apprentices. The preceding wood-cut shews the arms of this new corporate company, by whose permission it is here inserted.—*Local Papers, &c.*

1828 (June 27).—Died, in the mill-entry, head of the Side, Newcastle, aged 103 years, Thomas Thompson, an old soldier, a native of Woodhorn, Northumberland. He was at the battle of Minden in 1759, where he had his skull fractured, and he wore a silver plate over the fracture to the day of his death. At the close of the war in the year 1763, he travelled over Europe, and part of Asia and Africa in the service of captain Younghusband. He afterwards supported himself by turning a wheel for a glass cutter in the Close, Newcastle, as long as there was employment in that line. On the visit of the duke of Wellington to Newcastle, a petition was presented to his grace on his behalf, stating his great age and services, and that his means of support had been materially affected by the loss of his two sons, one at the battle of Trafalgar, and the other under his grace at Waterloo. The effect of this petition was to obtain for him an enlargement of his pension to 1s. 8d. per day. But it had a still more beneficial effect in raising up for him a friend and protector in the person of Colonel Arnold, who having been employed to announce to the veteran the above piece of good fortune, took so kind an interest for him, as very materially added to his comfort during the remainder of his life.—*Ibid.*

June 30.—A new theatre was opened at Sunderland, when the justly celebrated songstress, Miss Hughes, from London, a native of Sunderland, made her first appearance there. She was received with the most rapturous applause, and was encored in all her songs. The house was crowded to excess.—*Ibid.*

This month a sparrow built its nest upon the quarter block of the main yard of the ship Friends of North Shields, whilst lying in the river Tyne, and therein deposited several eggs.—*Ibid.*

July 2.—Wednesday evening, Mr. James Wright, the manager of the soap manufactory, in the Close, Newcastle, and thirty-two of the workmen, sat down to an entertainment in the interior of a newly erected soap copper. The healths of their employers, and other appropriate toasts were drunk with much applause, and the company did not separate till a late hour.—*Ibid.*

July 12 and 13.—Saturday and Sunday, there was a continuous, and often very heavy rain throughout the northern counties, which was followed with excessive floods, causing much loss and damage to the lands and crops on the low grounds and banks of the rivers. The Tyne rose to a great height, laying corn-fields waste, pikes

of hay were floated down, also live stock, consisting of sheep and pigs, and numerous geese and ducks were hurried away from their domiciles by the impetuosity of the current, and lost to their owners. Several trees were torn up by the roots, in the fullness of their summer foliage, and floated down the stream. The vast accumulation of water that rushed from the high lands in the county of Durham, overflowed the river Team, and a great number of the fields on each side were inundated, the whole presenting the appearance of an extensive lake. Considerable damage was sustained, as much new-made hay was carried off by the force of the water. The houses in Dunston and its vicinity were completely surrounded by the water, and the inhabitants had no means of escaping except by boats. Here also a number of keels, and small craft, were driven from their moorings. The gable end of Mr. Harrison's paper mill, erecting at the west end of Pipewellgate, Gateshead, was thrown down by the water running into the building, and bursting away the foundation. The river Darwent rose higher by several feet than the eldest people in the vicinity could remember, and rushed down its woody dells with great impetuosity, and the broad and shelving rocks that in many places form its bed, foamed with surge, as the vast body of water flowed through the numerous windings of that romantic stream into the Tyne. Most of the wooden bridges upon this river were carried away, and the damage done at the paper-mill at Shotley Grove, was very great. The whole of the dam head and apron, together with great part of a new quay, for the erection of another mill, being swept away. A water-spout fell at the foot of the bank near Hamsterley lodge, and did great damage to the road. The low lands adjacent to the river Wear, were for a long time under water, so that fine crops of every description were completely destroyed. A vast quantity of hay in pikes passed down the river. At Sunderland a ship was driven from Hetton-staith to the low part of the harbour, and some keels were driven from their moorings out to sea. At an early hour on the Monday morning (14th), a fine large black horse was taken out of the river dead, at the glass-house quay of Addison Fenwick, esq. It had the shafts and harness of a gig attached to it, but the body of the carriage was not found. On Sunday the (13th), as Mr. Cook, blacksmith at Nesham colliery, his brother-in-law, and their wives, were proceeding home from Newcastle, in a cart, the river having overflowed, had extended into the lane near the new bridge, at Lambton park. In attempting to turn back, the horse, being nearly overhead in water, stumbled, and was immediately drowned. After Mr. Cook and his friends had called out a long time, some persons walking to see the river, went to their assistance, and ropes were

procured. Several persons attempted to swim to them with ropes, but were unable to come near them, the water being several feet deep in the lane, and coming very rapidly down the new bridge field. Mr. Storey, of Picktree, sent a horse and sledge to Lambton, to bring a boat to the new bridge, when John Ferguson, boatman (a sailor), John Briggs, gamekeeper, at Lambton, and Joseph Laverick, formerly of Lunley ferry-boat, proceeded in the Lambton boat, to rescue them from their perilous situation, having ropes made fast to the boat. The ropes were thrown to the people to make fast to the trees, whither they had swam, to render all the assistance in their power to the unfortunate persons, as the water had risen, and they were standing in the cart up to their shoulders. After three of them were removed from the cart, it was carried away by the stream, and the other man jumped into the water and caught hold of a rope that was thrown from the boat. As they were dragging him to the boat the rope broke that was tied to the tree, and the boat was taken by the strong current over the tops of the trees, and every person thought it would upset, but Ferguson by his skill brought the boat ashore in the plantation belonging to lord Durham, near Mickleton, to the surprise of a great number who had assembled. They had been in their perilous situation about four hours. A great number of leverets were observed clinging to the pikes of hay as they floated down the Wear. Same day, a valuable cart mare belonging to Mr Thomas Wailes, of Meldon, was carried down the river Wansbeck, and drowned. By some means she had backed the cart into the swollen torrent, and was hurried away by the stream. Incalculable damage was done by this visitation, but it was not ascertained that any human lives were lost.—*Local Papers.*



1828 (July 21).—Died, George Allan, of Blackwell Grange, esq. M.A., F. A. S., a magistrate and deputy lieutenant of the county of Durham, only surviving son of George Allan, of Blackwell Grange, esq. an eminent antiquary and collector, and descended from an ancient and respectable family. He was elected representative for the city of Durham in 1813, and was a candidate at the next election, but declined a poll, though it was confidently asserted, that if he had persevered in his intentions, he would have been again returned, but the heavy pecuniary sacrifices of the first election, did not warrant his perseverance in a second contest, and he manfully declared his "inability to command such pecuniary resour-

ces as would be necessary to secure his election." When this determination was communicated to the freemen, it was received with sentiments of universal regret, highly honourable to all parties. He immediately afterwards, retired to France, and lived at St. Omers for several years greatly respected. He died, after a short but severe illness, in the 60th year of his age. His remains were interred in the family vault, at Darlington.—*Sharp's Burg. of Dur., &c.*

1828 (July 23).—In the afternoon, the inhabitants of Hexham experienced such a deluge in the low part of the town, called Cockshaw, and Giles place, as never occurred in the memory of the eldest inhabitant. After a tremendous shower of rain, the two rivulets which run in that quarter, became instantaneously swollen to an alarming height, and overflowed a considerable extent from their regular channels. It was a fortunate circumstance that it happened at the hour it did; had it taken place during the night, much more damage might have been sustained, and perhaps attended with the loss of lives. Great injury was done to the tanneries and gardens by being completely inundated. A great quantity of rain also fell at Durham, and did great injury to the hay, not only in pike, but also that which had been stacked, as the water penetrated to a surprising depth.—*Local Papers.*



ENTRANCE TO MORPETH OLD BRIDGE, FROM THE NORTH.

July 23.—As the Wonder coach, on its return from Alnwick to Newcastle, was passing along the bridge at Morpeth, it was met by some carts, which caused delay, and one of the horses eager to get on, began to plunge, and drew the coach against one of the guard stones on the east side; on which the wheel rising, threw the coach upon the battlement of the opposite side. Part of the battlement was

knocked down, and three of the outside passengers, two men and one women, trunks, coats, &c. were thrown over into the water. One of the passengers, Mr. Elliott, jun. of Newcastle, whitesmith, had a very narrow escape from drowning. Great praise is due to Mr. Joseph Thew, currier, John Stephenson, and Joseph Hedley, for their exertions in rescuing the passengers from the water. Doubts were entertained at one time for the safety of Mr. Thew and Mr. Elliott, who caught Thew by the legs, and kept him under water for some time; but by the assistance of Stephenson, they were rescued from their perilous situation, and fortunately no serious injury was sustained. Mr. Thew had only time to throw off his coat and silk neckcloth, before he plunged into the river, to endeavour to save the lives of the unfortunate travellers, during which some miscreant purloined the latter. Mr. Elliott reached Newcastle the same evening in a gig. Scott, the driver of the Wonder, had a narrow escape, and it was owing to the firmness with which he held the reins, that he was not precipitated over the bridge. Had the accident occurred on the preceding day, great doubts might have been entertained that any would have been saved, as the Wansbeck was much swollen by the heavy rain. A few weeks after this accident, through the benevolent influence of his grace the duke of Northumberland, the Royal Humane Society of London, of which his grace is president, remitted to the rev. Frederic Ekins, rector of Morpeth, the sum of ten pounds, with a request that it should be divided in the following manner:—To Joseph Hedley, 5*l.*; to Joseph Thew, 3*l.*; and to John Stephenson, 2*l.* There was also a subscription of nearly 40*l.* for the same object, to which his grace was a liberal contributor. The donation from the Royal Society was accompanied with a letter, feelingly expressive and complimentary to the persons who had so promptly and readily risked their own lives for the safety of others.—*Local Papers.*

1828 (July 27).—Died, at Warkworth, in Northumberland, aged 100 years, Mrs. Ann Taylor, widow of Mr. Cuthbert Taylor, of Tanfield, Durham.—*Ibid.*

July.—In removing the old battlements of Framwellgate-bridge, in the city of Durham, a large living toad was found in the very middle of the wall where it must have been confined for a number of years. The bridge was built by bishop Flambard in the year 1120, but when the battlement containing the animal was built, was not known.—*Ibid.*

This month, died, in London, suddenly, Mr. Thomas Fryer Ranson, an engraver of considerable eminence. Mr. Ranson was born at Sunderland, in the year 1784, but his parents shortly after removed to Newcastle, where he was bound apprentice to Mr. J. A. Kidd, engraver. After completing his apprenticeship he remained in New-

castle a few years, during which he executed several pieces with great taste and delicacy. He then removed to London, and soon became distinguished, and in the year 1814 received from the Society of Arts a silver medal, for the engraving of a portrait, supposed to be that of sir Thomas Gresham. On the 15th of April, 1818, he sent to the Society of Arts the copy of a new bank note, exhibiting specimens of the highest excellence in the graphic art. The vignette in the centre, etched and engraved by himself, from a drawing by Thurston, is a most beautiful production of art. Messrs. Archer and Turrell also contributed their skill, and the writing is well executed by Mr. Lambert, of Newcastle, engraver. This plate, and Mr. Ranson's letters were afterwards published by the Society of Arts. In June, this year, Mr. Ranson, published "An interior view of Coldbath-fields prison, in which Thomas Ranson was unlawfully confined by the Bank of England, for holding an alleged forged One Pound Note (that he paid forty shillings for), which was proved to be genuine in a Court of Justice. Dedicated, without permission, to the Govr. and Company of the Threadneedle-street paper establishment." He contended that the bank had no right to impound notes the property of others, and that the inspectors could not always distinguish between a forged and a genuine note. The question was decided in his favour, and he received much merited praise for his noble stand against an illegal assumption of power by the bank. In the year 1821, he received, from the Society of Arts, the gold Isis medal, for his portrait of the late duke of Northumberland, an engraving in the line manner, which has seldom been equalled; and, in May, the following year, he again received the gold Isis medal from the same society, for an engraving of Wilkie's "Duncan Gray."—*Local Papers.*

1828 (July).—This month, when two men were mowing a field belonging to Mr. James Dixon, at High Collierly, in the parish of Lanchester, Durham, they found a partridge with six chickens, apparently three weeks old, which this foster mother was nursing? It was supposed she had found a hen's nest and sat upon the eggs.—*Ibid.*

August 3.—A new church was opened for divine worship at Redcar, in the county of Durham. Service commenced at half-past 10 in the morning, by the rev. L. Vernon, rector of Stokesley, who did the whole of the duty in the morning, and likewise preached in the afternoon. After service, a collection was made each time, in aid of the fund, which amounted to £73. 1s. 8d.—*Ibid.*

August.—Workmen were at this time employed in building a bridge at the Link-house, near Blyth, the expense of which to be defrayed by private subscriptions.—*Ibid.*

1828 (Aug. 9).—An anonymous letter of which the following is a copy, was received by sir Matthew White Ridley, bart., M. P., who gave the money to the dispensary of Newcastle.

“*Newcastle, Aug. 9, 1828.*”

“Sir,—I swindled your late father out of £3. 3s. about thirty years since. I am extremely sorry for what I did; I have enclosed the amount. May the Lord bless you, dear Sir, and all your family, is the prayer of your obedient servant.”—*Local Papers.*

August 14.—About five o'clock on the morning an alarming fire was discovered in the premises of Mr. Musgrave, mustard manufacturer in Stockton, which burnt for a considerable time with great fury. The roofs of the building soon fell in, but from the great exertions made, and a good supply of water, it was fortunately got under about eight o'clock.—*Ibid.*

August 22.—As Ralph Pyle and James Cram were descending the pit at Benwell, the rope unfortunately broke, by which they were precipitated to the bottom, and killed on the spot.—*Ibid.*

August 23.—In conformity to a new act for regulating the town of North Shields, watchmen were appointed, and put on duty for the first time, on the night of the above day, Saturday.—*Ibid.*

Septem. 1.—An explosion took place in the new pit at Houghton-le-spring, belonging to lord Durham, when three men and four boys were burnt to death. The accident was attributed to the sufferers themselves having incautiously left open a door in the mine on the Saturday. The foul air had by this means accumulated in the workings, and on the return of the pitmen on the morning with their lights, it immediately exploded and occasioned the fatal result.—*Ibid.*

September 1.—Peter Macmillan undertook to walk 110 miles in 24 successive hours, on a half-mile piece of ground near the race course, Newcastle. He commenced his arduous undertaking at five o'clock in the afternoon, and completed in within the limited time. On the 15th Mary Macmillan, his mother, aged 64 years, undertook to walk 92 miles in 24 successive hours, on the race course, which she also completed. Numbers attended to witness these pedestrian feats.—*Ibid.*

September 7.—The new chapel built at Brandling place, near Newcastle, was opened for the use of the Wesleyan Methodists, on which occasion sermons were preached by the rev. Francis A. West, and the rev. William Naylor, to crowded audiences.—*Ibid.*

September 9.—When the sloop Hunter of Arbroath was loaded with coal, and waiting the tide in the Tyne, two of the men went down into the forecastle with a lighted candle, previous to sailing;

when on a sudden an explosion took place, in consequence of foul air brought on board with the coals, by which the two men were severely scorched.—*Local Papers*.

1828 (Sep. 9).—A part of the east wing of the ancient cathedral of Hexham, now used as the parish church, fell with a tremendous crash, and broke through the roof of the building adjoining, called the old school, in which were deposited the town lamps, all of which were demolished.—*Gent's. Mag.*



OLD TOWER, MARKET-PLACE, HEXHAM (1836).

September 9.—The new church of St. Paul, at Winlaton, in the parish of Ryton, Durham, was opened. The lord bishop of Durham arrived at Axwell park, the preceding day, where he remained during the night, and, at eleven o'clock the next morning his lordship arrived at the school-house, Winlaton, and was joined there by sir Thomas Clavering bart., C. J. Clavering, esq., and the principal inhabitants of the parish, all of whom carried white wands. The company went in procession, preceded by the Winlaton band of music, to the church (though the morning had been very wet and stormy), which was filled with a very respectable congregation. On the bishop arriving at the church, he was met at the west door by the rev. Charles Thorp, rector of Ryton; the rev. John Dodd, vicar of Newcastle; the rev. John Collinson, rector of Gateshead; the rev. Mr. Collinson, of Lamesley, and several other clergymen. The usual

petition was presented to the bishop praying that he would consecrate the church, and, after being read by the registrar, the procession moved to the vestry, where the bishop enrobed himself. The "Morning hymn" was sung by a choir, accompanied by the band; after which the ceremony commenced with the procession moving up the middle aisle from the west door to the communion table, the bishop and the clergy repeating alternately verses from the 24th Psalm. His lordship and his two chaplains then stepped within the rails of the altar; when the usual prayers were read. The procession then proceeded to the church-yard, where the act of consecrating the burial-ground was read by the rev. Mr. Baker, the chancellor, and signed by his lordship, who offered up a suitable prayer, and again returned to the altar; the chancellor then read the sentence for the consecration of the church, and it being signed by his lordship, was laid upon the communion table. The service of the day was then delivered by the reverends Henry Wardell and John Reed (the latter being appointed curate), and an excellent and pathetic sermon was preached by his lordship, from Psalm 26th, verse 8th—"Lord I have loved the habitation and the place where thy honour dwelleth." The choir then sung with great effect "Lord dismiss us," &c. His lordship then read a suitable prayer, and concluded with the apostolic blessing. After the ceremony, his lordship, the clergy, &c., partook of a cold collation at the house of Mr. Belt, after which his lordship, the clergy, &c., drove off to the rectory-house at Ryton, and honoured the rev. Mr. Thorp, with his presence to dinner. Mr. Belt presented to the church a peal of five bells, which were rung at intervals during the day. The tenor bell which weighs 10 cwt. bears the following inscription on the front:—"This peal of five bells was presented to the church of St. Paul, by Robert Belt, esq., Winlaton, Anno Dom. 1828." and on the reverse—"Charles Thorp, B. D., rector of Ryton; Henry Wardell, M. A., John Reed, B. A., curates; Robert Watson, Newcastle Tyne, founder."—*Local Papers*.



1828 (Sep. 9).—This being the day on which sir M. W. Ridley, bart., attained his 21st year, all the bells in the churches of Newcastle, rung several merry peals on the occasion. The day was celebrated with much festivity and rejoicing at Blagdon, and other places in the vicinity of the honourable baronet's domain. At Blyth all business was suspended, and the gentlemen of the place and its neighbourhood, with the masters of the ships

in the harbour dined together in celebration of the event. All the workmen at Cowpen colliery and Blyth, employed under sir Matthew White Ridley, bart., were liberally regaled, and the sailors belonging to the ships in the harbour were not forgotten. Such a festive day had not taken place at Blyth since April 18th, 1799, when the worthy baronet's father attained his 21st year.—*Local Papers*.

1828 (Sep. 15).—Died, at Hedley, near Beamish, in the county of Durham, Mr. Matthew Pratt, formerly a farmer at Urpeth, who had completed his 100th year on the 9th of the preceding June.—*Ibid*.

September 16.—At night, a most distressing accident occurred at Bishopwearmouth. Mr. William Hunter, land-agent to William Russell, esq., M. P. of Brancepath castle, was attending on business, at the Bridge inn, and retired to rest in good health; but, dreadful to relate, in the middle of the night he arose in his sleep, opened the chamber window, and walked out, when he was precipitated to the ground, a height of three stories, which caused almost instantaneous death.—*Ibid*.

September.—A part of the Town Hall at Hartlepool having been fitted up as a theatre. One evening about the middle of this month, the performances were under the patronage of the marquis of Cleveland and family, who were present. During the performance a part of the timber of the gallery gave way, to the great alarm of the audience, who rushed into the street *en masse*. Several persons were much bruised, and the whole audience terribly frightened, but no lives were lost.—*Ibid*.

September 18.—In the evening, as a gentleman was driving his carriage down the hill near Walbottle, on his way from Newcastle to Hexham, the vehicle ran amain, and was precipitated over the bridge at the foot of the bank. The height from the bridge to the dean below is nearly thirty feet, and, wonderful as it may seem, the horse was only slightly hurt, and the driver merely stunned. The carriage, which was considerably damaged, was new, and had just come from London, by the steam-packet, to Newcastle.—*Ibid*.

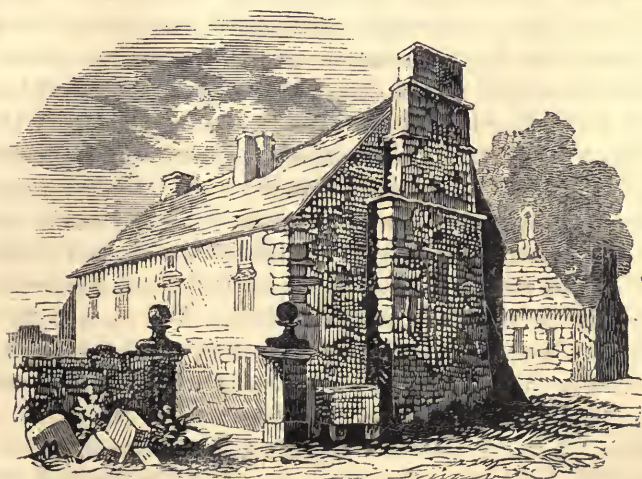
September 27.—Saturday, on old man, on his way to Newcastle, was attacked by a furious cow, grazing on the Haughs near the Herd's House, on the Elswick estate, and gored in a serious manner. A boat, in which were several persons, was passing up the river at the time, but before it could reach the shore, a person with an umbrella, attracted the attention of the furious animal, and thus saved the life of the old man. He was conveyed to a neighbouring house in a state of complete exhaustion.—*Ibid*.

September 29.—A luminous arch appeared stretched across the

heavens in a direction nearly N. E. and S. W. It was first seen about seven in the evening issuing from dark clouds near the horizon, quite across the zenith, where it intersected the Milky Way to the opposite horizon. Its width continued uniform for some time, being about 3°. The greater part of the sky was clear, and thickly studded with stars, which were quite visible through the arch. It remained perfectly steady for some time, and then assumed the fleeting shadowy nature of the Aurora Borealis. The light in the northern horizon, which had hitherto not been remarkable, suddenly brightened into a most vivid and sublime exhibition of the Aurora—the brilliant streamers of which extended nearly to the zenith, and frequently covered, without obscuring, the stars of the constellation of the Great Bear. The arch, which had disappeared, again became visible, extending in a direction parallel to its former one, but much further south, of considerably less altitude, and very obscure, resembling a reflection, or rainbow of the Aurora. The preceding day was windy with several heavy showers. The evening, during the above appearances, was fair, and several flying stars shot across the heavens during their continuance; the air rather frosty, and a strong wind blew from the W. or N. W. The atmosphere had been close and warm for some days before, and the barometer had a sudden and considerable depression a short time previous to these appearances.—*Local Papers.*

1828 (Sep. 29).—A new post coach commenced running between Penrith and Hexham, being the first public conveyance that had traversed the extensive mining district of Alston moor, and the beautiful and romantic scenery adjoining the mountainous ridge in which it is situated, thus affording great facilities for visiting the lead mines, and opening out an entirely new line of communication across the kingdom, no less advantageous to commercial travellers than interesting to men of science, to whom a large field of observation, especially in mineralogy and geology, is rendered easily accessible, while in this ride, the tourist in search of the “picturesque” will be gratified with an extent and variety of scenery unequalled in the north of England, and little, if at all inferior to the far-famed and often-sung romantic beauties of the Scottish border. The road traverses, for several miles, the elevated and dreary moors, among which the rivers Tyne, Tees, and Wear have their source, and in which are situated the valuable mining districts, for which this part of the country is celebrated. After leaving Alston, a town containing nearly two thousand inhabitants, and said to be the highest market town in England, the road ascends by a raised mound to Lowbyer inn, and thence continues along a fine terrace, commanding a beautiful view

of the vale of South Tyne, with the mountain of Crossfell, on the southern, and the bold elevations of the Penine chain on the western horizon. On the opposite banks may be seen the extensive remains of the Roman Station at Whitley. On gaining the summit of Whitfield-fell, a fine view over the county of Northumberland is afforded, terminated by the hills of Cheviot, Hedgehope, and Simonside, and by the German ocean. An interesting prospect is then had of the vales of West Allen and Whitfield: the road passes through the latter by a vista of highly-romantic scenery, in a well-wooded and narrow vale, beautifully situated, in which is the mansion-house of William Ord, esq., M. P.; its vicinity richly adorned with luxuriant foliage. The extremity of the vale is formed by a nearly perpendicular scar of great height, rising immediately from the eastern banks of the united streams of East and West Allen, over which is a handsome stone bridge of three arches. The formidable ascent of Cupola Bank is effected by a road gradually rising up the face of the steep, and turning by very acute angles; in about half a mile, it gains the summit, and passes near the verge of this tremendous precipice, from whence the vale of Whitfield again appears to great advantage, but is far surpassed when, continuing a little further eastward, the romantic and precipitous banks of the Allen, nearly covered with wood, are gradually unfolded to the view—receding in beautiful prespective, while the rocky bed of the river, at an immense and nearly perpendicular depth below, and the ruins of Staward le peel above, form a scene which never fails to excite the liveliest admiration. The



STAWARD FARM HOUSE,

In which Lord Derwentwater slept, on the last night he passed in Northumberland.

road then continues past the extensive smelt-mills belonging to Greenwich Hospital, and thence through a narrow and woody glen, in which the majestic ruins of Langley castle, suddenly burst on the view, to Hayden Bridge, where it joins the road from Carlisle to Hexham.—*Local Papers.*



1828 (Oct. 3).—Died, at his residence in Portsmouth dockyard, after a long and painful illness, aged nearly 61, the honourable sir George Grey, bart., K.C.B., captain in the Royal Navy, resident commissioner of Portsmouth dock-yard, marshall of the Vice-Admiralty court at Barbadoes; an alderman of Portsmouth, vice-president of the Naval and Military Bible Society, &c., and younger brother of earl Grey. He was born October 10, 1767, the fourth but third surviving son of Gen. Charles the first earl Grey, by Elizabeth, daughter of Geo. Grey, esq., of Southwick in the county of Durham. Sir George was a lieutenant of the *Resolution* in Rodney's action in 1782; in 1793 he obtained post rank in the *Boyne*, bearing the flag of sir John Jervis, with whom he served during the West India campaign, and commanded that ship when she was accidentally burnt at Spithead. At the siege of Guadaloupe, he commanded a detachment of 500 seamen and marines, landed to co-operate with the army. Sir George subsequently commanded the *Glory*, 98 guns, forming part of the Channel fleet; and in the following year, the *Victory*, bearing sir John Jervis's flag, with whom he continued during the whole period that officer held the command on the Mediterranean station. He consequently assisted at the defeat of the Spanish fleet, off Cape St. Vincent, in 1797. On earl St. Vincent hoisting his flag, in 1800, on board the *Ville de Paris*, as commander-in-chief of the Channel fleet, sir George took the command of that ship. In 1801 he was appointed to one of the yachts in attendance on the royal family at Weymouth, and continued in that service till 1804, when he succeeded sir Isaac Coffin as commissioner of Sheerness dock yard, from whence he removed to Portsmouth. In 1814, George IV. (then on a visit to the fleet at Spithead, in company with the allied sovereigns,) presented him with the patent of a baronetcy, and in 1820, with the order of K. C. B. Sir George Grey married, in July 1795, Mary, daughter of Sam. Whitbread, esq., by lady Mary Cornwallis, and sister to the late Sam. Whitbread, esq., M.P. for Bedford, who had in 1788 married sir George's eldest sister lady Elizabeth Grey. By this lady, who survived him, sir George had issue six daughters and

three sons. He is succeeded in his title by his eldest son, now sir George Grey, bart.—*Gent's. Mag.*

1828 (Oct. 5).—Sunday, at night, a rick of hay belonging to P. Corker of Barnardcastle, was maliciously set on fire, and threatened destruction to two other ricks adjoining, belonging to baron Hullock. The fire was got under by great exertions, and some part of the stock was saved. Baron Hullock generously gave the sufferer ten pounds.—*Local Papers.*

October 6.—As Mr. Gray, of Southwick, near Sunderland, was crossing the Wear, at the Ford, near Chester-le-street, in a gig, (the Wear at the time rising from the rain that had fallen on the preceding Sunday night), he succeeded in getting on shore, but the horse and gig were carried away, and found that evening in the river, near the race-ground at Lambton, about a mile from the ford.—*Ibid.*

October 9.—His grace the duke of Northumberland reviewed on Newcastle town moor, the Northumberland and Newcastle Yeomanry Cavalry, mounted and dismounted, who were then on duty in that town, under the command of lieutenant-col. Bell, M. P. His grace was dressed in a general's uniform, and the regiment performed before him, in excellent stile, all the manœuvres of a grand field day, and were rewarded with his grace's approbation. The day was fine, and there was an immense assemblage of spectators upon the ground.—*Ibid.*

October 11.—A new two-horse coach, called the "Adventure," commenced running between Newcastle and Bedlington.—*Ibid.*

October 16.—A most splendid entertainment was given by the hon. H. T. Liddell, M. P., and Mrs. Liddell, at their seat at Eslington house, Northumberland, to celebrate the baptism of their youngest daughter. At half-past five o'clock, P.M., the ceremony was performed by the rev. H. G. Liddell, in the presence of a select party of relatives and friends. Her grace the duchess of Northumberland, Miss Seymour, and the hon. Mrs. Dawson, were the sponsors. A beautiful china font was presented for the occasion by her grace, and the infant was named Florentia, from her grace's second name. After the ceremony, the distinguished party sat down to a sumptuous dinner at 6 o'clock. At half-past nine o'clock, the ball company began to arrive, and the elegant ball-room was thrown open to the admiring assemblage. The ball was opened by the hon. Mr. Liddell, and her grace the duchess of Northumberland, and the dancing was kept up with great spirit till one o'clock, when the company retired to a splendid and elegant supper. The health of the lord lieutenant of the county, and of her grace, was proposed in a neat and appropriate manner, by the hon. Mr. Liddell, and was drunk with long and

loud applause, after which the healths of the honourable host and hostess were proposed in a most gratifying manner by his grace, and loud cheers accompanied this toast. The healths of the distinguished sponsors were then proposed by Mr. Liddell, and received with great applause. The healths of lord and lady Ravensworth and family, were given and drunk with great enthusiasm. The company then returned to the ball room, and a varied succession of waltzes, quadrilles, and other dances, were continued until the dawn of the morning warned the happy party of the necessity of quitting the scene of festivity. The ball-room was most tastefully decorated with wreaths of flowers and evergreens, beautifully arranged in various devices; and the name bestowed by her grace the duchess of Northumberland, upon the young christian, was distinctly seen at the head of the room in large gold letters, intermixed with moss and flowers; and on the side of the room were seen the initials of the duke and duchess, with their respective coronets, most skillfully executed by Mr. Athey, of Alnwick. There were about 150 persons present upon this occasion, comprising several of the most distinguished families in the county.—*Local Papers*.

1828 (Oct.)—This month, as Joseph Forster, of Lumley, was proceeding along the Wear side, near Finchale abbey, on his road to Nesham, a stone, about a ton weight, was put over the bank by some men working above the road: it fell upon him, and killed him upon the spot.—*Ibid*.



FINCHALE ABBEY (1835).

CHAPTER XVII.



LEASE of the coal under a certain part of the Town Moor, Newcastle, having some years previously been granted by the corporation of that town, to the rev. Ralph Henry Brandling (who possessed the adjoining land) and Mr. Jobling the sub-lessee having broken the ground at a stone quarry on the west side of the barracks, where he opened a pit, constructed a railway, and erected a staith or place of de-

posit. About the middle of October, 1828, the stewards of the incorporated companies, who had long been aware of these proceedings, and contended that they were without right, bestirred themselves, and on the 27th of the same month appointed a deputation to inspect the lease. On the 31st a meeting of the stewards was held, when the deputation reported, that the Town clerk had informed them, that, by a lease granted to Mr. Brandling, in 1825, of the Town moor coal, no power was given to break the surface of any part thereof; but that an additional lease had been agreed on by the common council, giving Mr. Brandling power to break the surface, at or near the quarry, to work and bring to bank coals there, got from the moor, and also got from any adjoining lands or collieries, such additional grant being made without any compensation. The company met, and on the 7th of November the stewards assembled, and found that twenty two of the companies opposed and two favoured the working of the coal. The companies determined to support legal proceedings and recommended that the opinion of Mr. Edward H. Alderson, a celebrated counsel be obtained. On the 28th November the stewards met and read Mr. Alderson's opinion, who contended that the right of the corporation to grant the lease must fail unless they could prove that such acts had before been done and submitted to. That the fact of the

coals being hitherto worked by outstrokes, was in favour of the freemen. That the right to work stone does not imply the right to work coals, and that it was possible to restore the land to grass after the working of the former, but not after the latter, thereby shewing that the case in question was prejudicial to the rights of the freemen. That, (in conclusion) if any of the acts done by Mr. Brandling were prejudicial to the herbage, or if there was a deficiency after these acts were done, any one of the burgesses, entitled to a right of common by act of 14th Geo. III. might try the question in an action on the case. On the 29th November, the secretary gave notice to Mr. Brandling that if all the erections &c. at the coal mine were not immediately removed that the same would be prostrated by the stewards. This order having been disregarded the report of the opinion of the companies was received at a meeting of the stewards on the 4th of December, when twenty-one of the companies determined to level and fill up the quarry, remove all erections, and to support legal proceedings if necessary. Two companies dissented and, one sent no opinion. It was then resolved that the stewards should meet on the next day to carry these resolutions into effect. At ten o'clock on the morning of Friday the 5th of December the stewards met at the colliery, a duplicate of the notice to Mr. Brandling having been read and the same appearing not to have been complied with, the stewards displaced the railways, laid off the workings, removed the door at the mouth of the shaft, demolished the staith, and razed every other erection. They then gave notice to the under viewer and to other persons present that one week would be allowed for the removal of the materials, and after that period, the pit would be filled up and the surface restored to its original level. On the same day a handbill was issued intimating that the pit and other excavations were open as a deposit for rubbish. No action followed these proceedings.—*Minutes of the Body of Stewards, &c.*



1828 (Oct. 21).—Died, in Grafton-street, London, Richard Wharton, esq. F. R. S. of Old Park, in the county of Durham. He was the third son of Thomas Wharton, of Old Park, M. D.; was a barrister-at-law; and was elected M. P. for the city of Durham, 1802–6, 1807–12. He was some time chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means; and afterwards joint secretary of the Treasury. He was the author of “Observations on the Authenticity of Bruce’s Travels in Abyssinia,” 1800, 4to.; “Fables from the Italian Poets,”

1805, two vols. 8vo.; "Remarks on the Jacobinical tendency of the Edinburgh Review," 1809, 8vo.; "Roncesvalles," a Poem, dedicated to the princess Elizabeth, 1812, 4to. He married, June 7, 1792, Henrietta, daughter of — Farrer, of Lincoln's Inn, esq.—*Gent's Mag.*

1828 (Oct. 23).—Soon after six o'clock in the morning, a respectable young woman went from Ryhope into a field near the sea shore, and on her opening the field gate to return, she was prevented by a man dressed in a blue jacket and trowsers, in consequence of which she fled to the sea shore, and ran along it towards Ryhope Dean; but before she had reached the latter place, she was overtaken by the man, who ultimately threw her into the sea and left her. The girl managed to escape from drowning, and reached her home about eight o'clock, but in such a nervous state, that she was unable or unwilling to relate the particulars of the affair. She subsequently manifested symptoms of a disordered mind, and attempted self-destruction.—*Local Papers.*

October 24.—His royal highness the duke of Sussex, passed through Newcastle, on a visit to earl Grey, at Howick, and returned to the south on the 27th. His royal highness had for some time previous been at Raby castle, the hospitable mansion of the marquis of Cleveland; where lord Durham, Mr. Brougham, and a distinguished party had been invited to meet his royal highness. October 14th, his royal highness made a short tour through the country; passing over Winston bridge, he proceeded by Thorpe to Greta bridge, where he partook of refreshment at Martin's new inn; from thence crossing the Abbey bridge, they returned to Raby castle through Barnardcastle. His royal highness was highly gratified with his excursion through that beautiful neighbourhood. He was invited to Brancepath castle, the seat of William Russel, esq., M. P., but this he declined on account of the death of his sister the queen of Wirtemberg.—*Ibid.*

October 24.—A meeting of the inhabitants of Durham, and its neighbourhood was held at the Town-hall in that city, for the purpose of taking into consideration a plan for the improvement of the great North Road, between Framwellgate Toll Bar, and the north end of Framwellgate bridge. The meeting, which was most respectable, was addressed by Dr. Fenwick, who stated that a plan was in contemplation to change the line of the great North road, so as to avoid the city of Durham altogether. It was intended that the road should turn off a short distance from the city, and go across the country by Durham Moor Houses and Neville's cross, to Farewell hall, a measure which, if carried into effect, would greatly deteriorate the value of property, and do incalculable injury to the city of Durham; and, therefore, it was the duty of the inhabitants to look to their own interests, and by

making such improvements in the present road as were practicable, hold out an inducement for the continuance of the road through the city. F. D. Johnson, esq. of Aykley Heads, who addressed the meeting, stated that he had met with no opposition from the proprietors of the property through which the intended road would pass; but that, on the contrary, Thomas Wilkinson, esq. and W. L. Wharton, esq. had liberally given a portion of their fields through which the road would go. Resolutions were passed deprecating the intended road by Durham Moor Houses; and approving of the plan submitted to the meeting, for removing the houses at the north end of Framwellgate bridge, and carrying a road across, to re-join the North road again a short distance from the Toll Bar. W. L. Wharton, esq. and F. D. Johnson, esq., were appointed to present a memorial to the Trustees of the Durham and Tyne bridge road on the following Tuesday. The plan recommended by the meeting was finally adopted by the trustees and constables one of the greatest improvements ever effected in the district.—*Local Papers.*



FRAMWELLGATE BRIDGE, DURHAM (1836).

1828 (Oct. 27).—The post office, in Newcastle, was removed from Mosley street to St. Nicholas' church-yard, a situation generally complained of, but on the 21st of August 1832, it was removed to the royal Arcade in Pilgrim street, a more desirable, though still ineligible and inconvenient situation, considering the greatly altered and improved state of the town.—*Ibid.*

October 29.—A singular phenomena was exhibited at the Cow-hill fair, Newcastle, viz., a blood mare called Pincushion, with seven legs, three of which did not appear till she was three years of age, and

after she had won two races. An eighth leg was forming at the above period.—*Local Papers.*

1828 (Oct. 30).—The ancient chapel of St. Thomas à Becket, Tyne-bridge-end, Newcastle, was opened for a week-day lecture. A very interesting and impressive sermon was preached on the occasion, by the rev. J. Taylor, lecturer of St. John's in that town, to a very respectable congregation.—*Ibid.*



PART OF THE CRYPT OF THE OLD CHAPEL OF ST. THOMAS A BECKET,
SANDHILL, NEWCASTLE (1826).

At the general quarter sessions of the peace for Newcastle upon Tyne, held this month, six pilots, some of them respectable men in their line of life, and all of South Shields, pleaded guilty to an indictment for a riot and assault upon the river Tyne. The case was this—On the 31st July preceding, Mr. John Renwick, the master and owner of the Elizabeth steam-boat, was about to tow a vessel out of Shields harbour to sea, and the pilots having for some time felt that this mode of getting vessels out to sea interfered with their occupation, came to

the unlawful determination of putting a stop to it by force, and accordingly they assembled in their boats upon the river, to the number of fifty or sixty men, and having previously provided themselves with stones, they followed the steam-boat as she was towing the ship down the river, and pelted the people on board with stones, to the imminent danger of their lives; and one man at the helm, named James Black, was knocked down, and laid as if dead for some time. Mr. John Renwick, being a cool determined man, would not be beaten from his purpose, and he persevered in getting the ship out to sea. The defendants having expressed great contrition, the recorder, after giving them a very suitable admonition, sentenced them to pay a fine of one shilling each, and costs; to enter into their own recognizances in £40. each for keeping the peace for six months, and to pay the damage done to the boat.—*Local Papers.*

1828 (Oct).—A cast of the Milo of Lough was received by the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle, and is now in their library. This noble piece of art is a present from the sculptor himself, who can hardly receive adequate thanks for such a valuable mark of his liberality. The statue is a standing figure, which, with the pedestal, reaches to about the height of 14 feet. Milo attempted in his old age to tear up a tree by the roots, and to break it to pieces; but his hands or arms becoming entangled in a cleft which he could not open, he was torn to pieces by wild beasts. In this piece of sculpture, one arm of Milo is in the cleft, a wolf is at the throat of the figure, and the other hand is reaching behind with a sort of mistaken instinct of intolerable agony, as if to seize the wolf in that direction, or as if the hand was almost unconsciously directed to the part where the devouring animal inflicted greatest pain. The breast and back of the figure form one of the finest muscular displays of modern statuary. The countenance is minutely expressive of what may be conceived to be the feelings of such a moment, but it hardly bears the appearance of sufficient age. The backdrawn hand and arm resemble the congelation, or the *enstoning*, if one may use the word in reference to the original statue, of life itself. It may not be uninteresting to mention, that Mr. Lough is the son of a small farmer in Northumberland, from whence he was taken, at a very early age, to Low Muggleswick, near Stanhope, in Durham, where he distinguished himself, among his playmates by his skill in forming small clay models of the figures of men and animals. These attracted the attention of the clergyman of the village, by whom he was encouraged to proceed. Lough was apprenticed to a stone mason, and first evinced his skill and taste in the execution of a monument in Allendale church. He afterwards removed to Newcastle, where he worked at his trade for

some time, unnoticed and unknown; but all his spare hours were devoted to the art of modelling in clay. At length he conceived the bold idea of executing the above colossal work, which he accomplished at his humble lodgings in London, under circumstances of extreme difficulty; but when his task was completed, artists, noblemen, and amateurs hastened to gaze upon and admire the extraordinary work of this untaught genius, and numerous orders were pressed upon him. Several other original and boldly conceived works have, since that time, proceeded from his studio.—*New Mon. Mag.* &c.

1828 (Oct).—In making an excavation for a new harbour at Seaham in the county of Durham, a human skeleton was found about three feet below the surface of the earth, with the head doubled forward upon the breast. It was supposed to be the body of some person who had been murdered at a remote period; most of the small bones were decomposed.—*Local Papers*.

There was at this period residing at the village of Wallsend, Northumberland, an ancient matron, who had attained the patriarchal age of 104 years; was in the possession of all her faculties; in the enjoyment of good health, and had for upwards of half a century received parochial relief from the township of Westgate, Newcastle.—*Ibid*.

November 8.—Died, at his house in Gateshead, in the 76th year of his age, Thomas Bewick, the celebrated engraver on wood. He was born in the year 1753 at Cherryburn, near Ovingham, in Northumberland. Manifesting an early proficiency in drawing, he, at the age of fourteen years, was bound apprentice to Ralph Beilby, an engraver in Newcastle, who was a man of considerable talent. Bewick was first brought before the public by his wood cut of "The Old Hound," which gained the premium of seven guineas from the Society of Arts in the year 1775. This no doubt encouraged his genius, and laid the foundation of his success in after life. He cut in wood the mathematical diagrams for Hutton's Mensuration, in quarto, published in Newcastle in the year 1770. Soon after the expiration of his servitude, he was taken into partnership by his master, under the firm of Beilby and Bewick, and in the year 1790 appeared his "History of Quadrupeds." In the year 1795, he, with his brother John, were engaged by William Bulmer, printer of London, (a native of Newcastle) to embellish an edition of Goldsmith's Traveller and Deserted Village, and Parnell's Hermit. The success that attended this volume, induced Mr. Bulmer to engage in the publication of Somerville's Chase as a companion. This was produced the year following. After John Bewick had finished on wood the whole of the designs, except one, which embellish this work, he left London

for Ovingham, where he died on the 5th of December 1795, aged 35 years, and lies buried at Ovingham church. After the death of his brother, Bewick bestowed every possible attention in engraving these blocks. In the year 1797 he published the first volume of *British Birds*; in 1804 the second volume; and in 1818 appeared the last of his published works, "*The Fables of Æsop and others.*" At the time of his death he had cut in wood several illustrations for a *History of Fishes*. Many of his tail pieces have particular allusions:—once a fellow cheated him of a cart of coals, and to punish and expose the fellow, Bewick sketched his likeness, and made the devil drive him (pictorially) to the gallows in his own cart; this cut is in vol. i, page 114, of his *British Birds*—and the tail piece on the last page of his *Fables* represent his own funeral, with a view of Ovingham church; below the cut appears the significant word "*FINIS.*" He was buried at Ovingham church on the 13th of November, and was attended to the grave by many of his old and valued friends. Mr. Bewick possessed a rare union of talent, being a naturalist, a draughtsman, and an engraver. To enumerate the whole



of the works embellished by Messrs. Thomas and John Bewick would far exceed our limits, but we enumerate a portion done by the former. On copper—Illustrations to Consett's Tour in Lapland, the Whitley large Ox, and another prize Ox. His large wood cuts are,—“The Wild Bull of the ancient Caledonian breed, now in the park at Chillingham castle, Northumberland, 1789.” This is his largest wood cut. A Zebra, an Elephant, a Tiger, and a Lion; these were designed and cut on wood for Mr. Pidecock, while he was in Newcastle with his celebrated collection of wild beasts in 1799. He also designed and cut on wood, a lion for Mr. Charnley of Newcastle. This gentleman has gratified collectors, by gathering a number of Bewick's blocks which had strayed from Newcastle, which he published in 1820, in a very neatly printed volume, under the title of “Select Fables.” This contains an original portrait, cut on wood by Charlton Nesbit, also reduced copies of all the portraits of Bewick which had then been engraved. They are four in number. There is also a very fine marble bust of Bewick, by Bailey, in the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle; it was placed there by a subscription of his friends and admirers. The accompanying portrait is a very early specimen of Mr. John Jackson's engraving, we believe between the years 1818 and 1820.—*Local Rec., &c.*

1828 (Nov. 9).—A fire occurred in All Saints' church, Newcastle. When the congregation assembled at 3 o'clock, for divine service, there was a great deal of smoke in the church, which increased so much during the sermon, that many of the congregation were obliged



OLD HOUSES SOUTH SIDE OF ALL SAINTS' CHURCH-YARD, NEWCASTLE.

to retire, and therefore the minister (the rev. W. A. Shute), who was preaching, thought it best to conclude abruptly. The church being warmed by a stove, it was found that the upright flue or chimney had been filled with soot, and this having ignited, had heated the iron flue red hot, and as this passed near one of the main timbers of the roof, and was separated from it only by lime, the beam had caught fire, and the flames had communicated to some of the rafters which it supported. Fire engines being immediately sent for, the devouring element was apparently overcome about a quarter past six o'clock; it however partially broke out again about half-past ten, but as one engine and the firemen were still on the spot, it was immediately discovered and finally extinguished about eleven o'clock at night. It was supposed that in half an hour more, the conflagration would have become general and reduced this elegant structure to a mass of ruins. So great was the anxiety for the preservation of the church, that the corpse of Mr. Lax, which was in waiting at four o'clock, could not be interred until between six and seven o'clock. The damage amounted to about £260.—*Local Papers.*

1828 (Nov. 10).—Two most shocking murders were committed at Cowley house, near Sedgefield, in the county of Durham, by a man named Joseph Hutchinson, on the bodies of his father and brother, named John and Israel Hutchinson, who were joint occupiers of the farm. The family consisting of the father, two sons, a daughter, and her husband, were all sitting at dinner between twelve and one o'clock, and before the others had finished their meals, Joseph Hutchinson rose and left the table (his usual practice) without any provocation, and retired into a back kitchen, from which, however, he soon returned with a large poker, and with it inflicted a tremendous blow on the head of his brother, which brought him to the ground nearly lifeless. He then aimed a blow at his brother-in-law (Lamb), which grazed his forehead, but he was fortunately able to effect his escape with his wife and children, without further injury. After this, Joseph attacked his father in a furious manner with the same weapon, and continued to do so until life was nearly extinct, when he left the house for a hammer, with which he returned, with the servant girl, (who had been in the yard during the murders) whom he desired to go into the house and get her dinner, apparently regardless of the horrid slaughter he had committed. On re-entering the kitchen, the murderer again commenced beating the heads of his victims with the hammer; he then saddled a fine spirited horse and rode to Durham, as deliberately as if nothing had happened. He went to Mr. Forsyth's, the Newcastle arms, in New Elvet, the house which the family usually went to in Durham, between one and two

o'clock in the afternoon, but left soon after on his return home. By this time a constable of Sedgefield, named Crossling, having been dispatched in pursuit of him, succeeded (with the assistance of two gentlemen in a gig, whom he accidentally met), in securing the murderer near Coxhoe. He was committed to Durham gaol on the coroner's verdict of wilful murder. Two indictments were preferred at the Durham spring assizes, 23rd February, 1829, against Joseph Hutchinson, for the murder of his father and brother, John and Israel Hutchinson, at Sedgefield, but the grand jury returned them with the following words written at the bottom:—"We find that Joseph Hutchinson did cause the death of John and Israel Hutchinson, by the means named in the indictment; but we do not find that bill for murder, as it appears to us that the prisoner was insane at the time of committing the act." The prisoner was brought up and arraigned on the coroner's warrant for the above named murders, and when asked whether he was guilty or not guilty, he replied "I did it, but were they Christians or not?" He seemed perfectly collected, and manifested the greatest indifference to what was passing. Mr. Justice Bailey at first thought that it would be best for the court to put in a plea of "not guilty" for him, as he did not answer satisfactorily. The clerk of the court was proceeding to swear the jury, and on the prisoner being told that he might object to any of the jurymen if he thought proper, he said—"I'll tell them what I'll do, I'll bring a speech box for them." The evident insanity of the prisoner altered his lordship's mind, and he said he thought it would be much better to swear the jury for the purpose of enquiring whether the prisoner was insane or not, and in a fit state of mind to take his trial. The jury were accordingly sworn, and examined Mr. Frushard, the governor of the gaol, his assistant Milbank, Mr. Hepple, surgeon to the gaol, and Mr. Oswald, surgeon, Sedgefield, all of whom stated their decided conviction that he was in an unsound state of mind; and the latter gentleman said that he was sent for to attend him more than two years previously, and at that time recommended his family to send him to a lunatic asylum, as he was not fit to go at large. The jury immediately expressed their opinion that he was of unsound mind, and unfit to take his trial. He was then taken back to the prison and ordered to be detained.—*Local Papers.*

1828 (Nov. 10).—Two boys, named Donnison and Lamb, the one eleven, the other twelve years of age, were unfortunately killed in a quarry, situated in Diana's grove, on the north Elswick estate, near Newcastle, where they had been sent by their employer, Thomas Colvin, of Gallowgate, tharm maker, to dig coals. In the quarry, there was a passage to an old coal pit, where they dug out the coals which

supported the roof, when a huge rock, of about fifteen tons weight fell upon them and crushed them to death. The rock had to be broken into pieces, before the bodies could be recovered. The boys were son and grandson of a man named Donnison, a tailor, who perished in a storm a few years before, at the Cowgate, near Newcastle, in returning from Woolsington.—*Local Papers*.

1828 (Nov. 11).—The dead bodies of two females were discovered in the coach-office of the Turf hotel in Newcastle. One came by the Highflyer coach from York, and the other was brought by a man to be booked for Edinburgh. In consequence of suspicions a police officer was sent for, and the man was taken into custody. The packages were directed to different parties in Edinburgh. Inquests were held on the following day by the coroner for Newcastle, and no marks of violence appearing on the bodies, the verdict was to that effect, and they were interred in St. John's church-yard. The package from York came to Newcastle first on the 8th, and being suspected, was returned thither; and the coach proprietors at York sent it back by the same coach. The man who took the other box to the coach-office was tried and acquitted.—*Ibid*.



SOUTH TRANSEPT OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, NEWCASTLE (1843).

November 13.—Between three and four o'clock on the morning a fire broke out in the premises occupied by Mr. W. Scott, as a joiner's shop, situated above the brew house belonging to the Bee Hive public-house, in the Close, Newcastle. It was supposed to have originated from some sparks of fire which had been left burning during

the night, coming in contact with the joiner's shavings. The flames were observed issuing from the roof by some keelmen on the river, who gave the alarm. Fire engines being shortly in attendance, with other assistance, the destructive element was confined to the house wherein it broke out, and in a short time was wholly suppressed. The roof fell in, and other considerable damage was done to the amount of about £150. The premises were the property of Mr. Jabez Hood.—*Local Papers.*

1828 (Nov. 13).—The bell tower of the new Catholic chapel, then building at Hexham, fell with a tremendous crash, which did considerable damage. Fortunately no lives were lost, as it occurred during the workmen's dinner hour. No blame was attached to the builder, Mr. William Oliver, of Durham, as the part that fell was under the direction of the Rev. Mr. Singleton, a difference having taken place between Mr. Oliver and the committee.—*Ibid.*

November 14.—Tuesday, Abraham Hartz, an Israelite, born near Warsaw, in Poland, renounced Judaism, and was baptised in the Christian faith, in St. Nicholas' church, Newcastle, under the name of John Abraham Hartz, by the rev. John Dodd, vicar.—*Ibid.*

November 20.—A dreadful explosion took place in the Eye Pit, at Washington colliery, upon the river Wear. There were fifteen persons (eleven boys and four men) in the pit when it occurred, all of whom were killed, excepting a man named Michael Hall, the *onsetter*, who was much burnt. The report was awfully loud, and the blast so powerful, that the machinery at the mouth of the pit was blown down and scattered about to some distance, with corves and other weighty bodies from the bottom of the shaft. The colliery had been examined in the morning, and was considered to be in a state of perfect ventilation.—*Ibid.*

November 28.—At the rent day of the marquis of Londonderry, held at Wynyard park, the silver tankard, promised by his lordship to that tenant whose farm should this year be found in the best state of cultivation, was awarded to Mr. Matthew Ryle, of West Herrington, bearing the following inscription:—"Presented by Charles William Vane, marquis of Londonderry, for the best and most striking example of industrious labour, and able exertions in husbandry, in the management of his farm and lands, in the year 1828, of all the tenantry." The marquis also highly complimented many others of his tenantry, on the excellent state of their respective farms; and for the better encouragement of agricultural improvement, his lordship signified his intention to give a piece of plate annually in a similar manner.—*Ibid.*

November 28.—This being the day appointed for laying the founda-

tion stones of the new harbour and town of Seaham, in the county of Durham, an immense concourse of people had assembled to witness the imposing ceremony. The marquis and marchioness of Londonderry, accompanied by lord Ravensworth and family, and other distinguished friends, arrived in their carriages, a little before one o'clock. They then alighted within a short distance of the harbour, and on the line of road which led to it. Here "The Wellington Car," (that in which the illustrious Wellington passed along the colliery waggon-ways, when he visited the county of Durham, the preceding year,) was ready to receive them, and into which the distinguished party immediately entered, and were conducted down the railway towards the site of the new harbour, preceded by the marquis's band of music. On reaching the spot where the ceremony was to take place, the marquis of Londonderry, sir C. Sharp, and John Buddle, esq., alighted, cheered by the loudest acclamations; this was a most interesting moment, as Seaham-hall, the church, and many of the neighbouring farm-houses, a wind-mill, and the temporary erections near the harbour, were decorated with flags. Mr. Buddle having mounted the stone, he presented his lordship with a splendid silver trowel, on one side of which was engraved a plan of the new harbour, and on the other the Londonderry arms, and the following inscription:—"This trowel was presented to the most honourable Charles William Vane Stewart, Marquis of Londonderry, by John Buddle, on laying the foundation stone of the north pier of Seaham harbour, this 28th day of Nov., 1828." The handle was formed of Rainton coal, highly polished. Mr. Buddle in presenting this trowel, complimented his lordship as having spent great part of his life as a soldier, and on his now shewing a desire to preserve the lives of British seamen, as he regarded this harbour as an undertaking commenced, less to serve his own interest, than from the patriotic motive of affording a place of refuge for shipping on that coast, where a few years ago such disastrous wrecks had taken place, and which he was well assured would have been prevented had the vessels had such a port of safety to have recourse to, as was now about to be constructed. Sir Cuthbert Sharp also spoke on the occasion, and expressed himself of opinion, that this great undertaking, so far from being injurious to the town of Sunderland, as had been conjectured, would be beneficial to it. In a speech of considerable length, sir Cuthbert was repeatedly and loudly cheered, and having passed a high eulogium upon the noble marquis and his lady, he presented to the latter a flag having the armorial bearings of the noble family, encircled with the motto of "Success to Seaham Harbour." The marquis of Londonderry then laid the foundation stone of the north-east pier of the inner harbour. His lordship

observed, that he was delighted to see so many friends around him on this occasion; he had commenced, he said, the great undertaking, in honour of which they were now assembled, less for his own advantage than for serving the public, and for advancing the commercial interests of the county of Durham. He had begun it by the advice of his valued friend Mr. Buddle, and when he considered that he not only had the opinion of Mr. Chapman, the engineer, but also of Mr. Telford, and of Mr. Rennie in his favour, he could not help confidently looking forward to a successful termination. The cheering which followed his lordship's speech, which had been delivered with much feeling, lasted for some time, and a salute of 34 guns was fired from the neighbouring cliff to signify the conclusion of the first ceremony. As the car was drawn from the beach, the noble family was again loudly cheered. On reaching the summit of the bank, Mr. Chapman, the engineer, presented himself, and handing to the noble marquis a plan of the harbour, took occasion to deliver a few observations on the forwardness of the work which had been so recently commenced, and on the future extent of its utility. Mr. Chapman's speech was loudly cheered. The marquis and marchioness, and their friends having alighted from the car, walked round the limits of the harbour to inspect the progress of the works, and then re-entering their barouche, drawn by four beautiful horses, they proceeded to the spot where the foundation stone of the first house of Seaham town was to be laid by viscount Seaham. The marquis and his interesting little boy, here descended from the carriage, and were received by John Dobson, esq., of Newcastle, architect, who in presenting a plan of the intended town to lord Seaham, who was to lay the foundation stone, observed, that in preparing the design, he had calculated on that place becoming a port of considerable eminence, and he trusted that his gallant father and accomplished mother would have cause to look back with pride on the proceedings of that day. Mr. Dobson then presented the young lord with a very handsome silver trowel, the handle formed of limestone of a very fine description, with which the Seaham estate abounds. Lord Seaham, who had not attained his eighth year, replied to Mr. Dobson, as follows:—"Mr. Dobson, I thank you. I cannot make a speech, but I wish success to the town, and happiness to the people." His lordship having completed the ceremony, the cheers of the assembled multitude, were followed by another salute of 34 guns from the cliff, and the crowd then moved gradually to the northward, notice having been given that all persons were required to retire beyond a certain barrier, prior to the firing of a mine, which was to blow into the air a large mass of rock, to commemorate the occurrences of the day. Sufficient time was given for

this purpose, and a signal gun was fired two minutes before the springing of the mine, that all persons might be upon their guard and look to their own safety. The explosion at length took place, and the rock was shivered to pieces in a moment, and parts of it were hurled into the air and scattered for some distance round. Three persons who had not attended to the caution were injured by the fall of the fragments, one man having a shoulder dislocated, another his arm broken, and a boy received a severe contusion. The marquis and marchioness of Londonderry and their friends, after witnessing the explosion, retired to Seaham hall, where a sumptuous banquet was provided for a very large assemblage of the most respectable gentry in the county of Durham, and of the adjoining counties. The health of the marchioness of Londonderry preceded all others, and was drunk with repeated cheers. "The marquis of Londonderry," "Lord Seaham, and the junior branches of the family," and "Success to Seaham harbour," followed, and were received with the most enthusiastic applause. The company, consisting of nearly 400 persons, were not less gratified by the elegant profusion on the board, than with the courtesy, kindness, and condescension of the noble host and hostess. The proceedings of this day will be long recollected with pleasure and satisfaction, as well by those who partook of the splendid hospitality of Seaham hall, as by those who were spectators of the noble and important proceedings of laying the foundation stones of a new harbour and town. The number of persons present, at the most moderate calculation, may be stated at 7,000. The brass plate, hermetically sealed in a glass case, deposited beneath the pier, bore the following inscription:—

"Charles William Vane,
Third Marquis of Londonderry,
Viscount Castlereagh and Baron Stewart,
Of Mount Stewart, and of Ballilawn in Ireland,
And
First Earl Vane and Viscount Seaham
Of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland,
K. C. B., G. C. H., K. B. E., K. R. E., K. S. G., K. S., K. T. S., &c. &c.
Laid the Foundation Stone
Of Seaham Harbour,
A. D., 1828, Nov. 28th.

Having married Frances Anne Vane Tempest, only daughter of Sir Henry Vane Tempest, bart., by Anne, Countess of Antrim, he became possessed of the estates and collieries of the Vane and Tempest families of the county of Durham, and having added and annexed the estate of Seaham to the same, he embarked in the construction of this harbour, with

an humble and confident hope of facilitating the exportation of the produce of the mines, and of augmenting the commercial interest of the county of Durham. In this undertaking, the founder has been chiefly advised by the tried experience and indefatigable industry of his valued friend and agent,

John Buddle, Esq., of Wallsend.

William Chapman, Esq., Engineer.

The inscription on the plate placed in the foundation stone of the town was as follows:—

“George Henry Robert Charles Vane,
Viscount Seaham,
Laid the Foundation Stone
Of the First House of Seaham Town,
Nov. 28th, 1828, A. D.

John Dobson, Esq., Architect.”

—*Local Papers.*

1828 (Nov. 29).—Saturday, at night, a heavy rain commenced, and was incessant during the whole of Sunday, the 30th, by which the Tyne was swollen to a considerable height, and a float of timber, from above Newcastle bridge, and various other property was carried down the stream. The Tyne also flowed into some old workings at Townley main colliery, near Stella, and unfortunately drowned one man and fourteen horses, in the Star fleet pit. The water was several feet deep in the mill and other buildings at Scotswood. Part of the battlement of Wallsend bridge, on the Newcastle and North Shields turnpike was carried away by the flood in the brook. Mr. James Lamb, of Harbottle, Northumberland, surgeon, unfortunately came by his death from the same cause. He and other persons had been fishing for salmon trout in the Coquet with leisters; an unlawful practice in a close time, but common in that neighbourhood. He afterwards spent some time at a friend's house in Allenton, which he left with a boy in the dark. His clothes being wet, it is supposed he attempted for nearness to ford the river, as the boy missed him. The water being high he was carried down the stream three miles, where his body was found the next day.—*Ibid.*

November 30.—Considerable anxiety was felt in Newcastle for several days in consequence of Mr. Thomas Gibson, the comptroller of the customs, and eldest son of the late Benjamin Gibson, esq., having on the above day (Sunday), left his own house at Chimney-mills, on the edge of the Leazes, at five o'clock in the afternoon to take his usual walk (his custom whether rain or fair), and did not return, Mr. Ridley, a neighbour, saw him go out at the gate on to the

moor, and take the direction of the race course. Not coming home to tea, Mrs. Gibson became rather alarmed, and, accompanied by a friend, went out with lanterns late that night, and again by three o'clock on the morning, (being moon-light) but no traces of him could be found. Search of every description was made during the week, and it was only on Friday afternoon that Mr. Taylor Gibson, his brother, got information that a straw hat had been taken up on Monday morning in the bull's park at the south end of the Town moor, which proved to be the hat Mr. Gibson had on when he went out. Mr. Ridley above named, hearing of this, took a survey of the neighbourhood, and very soon almost made himself certain that Mr. Gibson had slipped into a runner of water near the mouth of a large conduit (on the north side of the new water pond on the moor) that took its course into the bull's park, and on exploring this on the Saturday the body was found. W. Fife, esq., the coroner, held an inquest on the body the same evening, and the following verdict was given:—"On Saturday the 6th day of December inst., the body of Thomas Gibson, who had been missing since Sunday the 30th of November, was found drowned and suffocated in a certain conduit situated on the Town moor, in the parish of St. Nicholas, in the town and county of Newcastle upon Tyne; that the said Thomas Gibson had no marks of violence appearing on his body, otherwise than might be occasioned by having passed a considerable space along the conduit, and that the jurors are of opinion the said Thomas Gibson had fallen into the entrance of the said conduit, and had been swept away by the violence of the flood which at that time prevailed, in consequence of a long and continued rain which had fallen on Saturday and Sunday the 29th and 30th of November." Mr. Gibson, when found, was very little altered in his appearance. He was in his 64th year, was a man of mild and affectionate disposition and very charitable to the poor. The flood, as soon as Mr. Gibson's body had stopped, had burst the conduit upwards in the bull's park, and the hat had been thrown up through the aperture. Two pit boys had been employed to explore the conduit from the mouth, and air holes were occasionally made for them until they came to the body of the unfortunate gentleman at the distance of 250 yards. Mr. Gibson had been at church with his brother on the Sunday morning, and afterwards took a walk before dinner. After he had dined, he put on his old clothes and assisted the servant in clearing the yard which was much flooded by the rain, and then went out as above stated. The mouth of the conduit was three feet high, and it was satisfactorily proved on the inquest, that Mr. Gibson had met his death, by getting, through mistake in the dark, into the ditch or line of the conduit, and by the impetuosity of the

flood had been thrown down and forced into it without the least possibility of extricating himself.—*Local Papers.*

1828 (December 1).—On the morning of this day, (Monday) at three o'clock, the wind commenced blowing a most terrific hurricane from E. N. E. It came on in a moment (the wind previously west), and catching several coasting vessels in shore, the consequences were most disastrous. Near Seaham, there were on shore, the Pilot, and New Concord, both of Sunderland; and the St. Helena and the Granicus, both of Shields, the latter a total wreck. The people on board these vessels mistook the lights on the erections going on at the new harbour at Seaham, for Sunderland harbour lights; and it was not until day-break, they discovered their real situation. The schooner Triton, of Arbroath, Thomas Ford, master, with a crew of four men, three boys, and one passenger, laden with rye, from Liebau (Baltic) bound for Newcastle, struck on a rock off Newton by the Sea, Northumberland, and was driven on shore a complete wreck, where she was discovered about six A. M., with the hands clinging to the rigging. No time was lost by lieutenant Brunton, R. N., of the preventive service, in getting captain Manby's apparatus down to the beach, but several shots were fired without being able to reach the wreck; and by this time the strength of the poor sufferers was so exhausted, that they were seen one by one dropping into a watery grave, when lieutenant Brunton, gallantly offered to attempt reaching the wreck in a fisherman's coble, if four fishermen would accompany him. Four brave fellows instantly volunteered to risk their lives to save their fellow-creatures, and after being twice driven back by the tremendous surge, they at length reached the vessel. There were then three men alive, but melancholy to relate, only one (James Patterson) had strength to avail himself of the proffered assistance. The surf was now so high, that to remain by the wreck was impossible, and every exertion to get the boat clear became necessary: in this they had scarcely succeeded, when she unfortunately swamped, and her crew were plunged at once into that peril, from which they had been so laudably endeavouring to save their fellow-creatures. Fortunately, from the circumstance of a line being attached to the boat, previous to her putting off, those on shore were enabled in their turn, to render assistance, and ultimately all the boat's crew were got safe on shore. The bark, Mary, of Leith, Davidson, master, timber laden, drifted on Bondicar rocks, near Warkworth. About eight o'clock, six of the crew took to the jolly boat, and made for the shore. In a few minutes the boat was swamped; four of them reached the land by the assistance of the spectators; the other two sunk to rise no more. There were then

ten people left on board ; the fore-mast gone, also the main-top-mast, and the sea making a constant passage over her. At ten o'clock, being high water, the vessel went athwart ; the long boat was washed off her deck, and fell on its bottom, when two of the crew got in for the purpose of bailing it. Providentially it was soon after stove, which in all probability prevented the crew from sharing a similar fate to that of their unfortunate companions. At two o'clock P. M., Mr. John Muers, agent for Lloyd's, made a signal for a buoy to be put over, and at the same time requested four young men, fishermen of Hauxley, to go off in a coble, which had been procured for the purpose. They succeeded in getting the line, which was landed ; but the people on the shore being numerous and anxious, it was broken in their exertions. The boat returned, and got a second, which was tied with more caution, and at length got a warp ; the boat then laid about 50 yards from the vessel's bow, and about a 100 from the shore. The end of the warp was held by the people on the beach, and by that means the crew were lowered into the coble, and safely landed. A few days subsequent to these disasters, the managing committee of the Royal National Shipwreck Institution of London, awarded their gold medallion to lieut. Brunton, for his gallant and humane conduct in rescuing the only surviving mariner from the wreck of the Triton, together with twenty pounds to the four fishermen who assisted him with their coble on that occasion. The rev. Joseph Cook and captain Cook, both of Newton hall, also gave £1. each, to the Hauxley fishermen, who went off to the assistance of the crew of the barque Mary, on Bondicar rocks.—*Local Papers*.

1828 (Nov).—About the close of this month, the ground sunk considerably on the turnpike, west of Newcastle, opposite to Fenham, supposed to have been caused by the *creeping* of some old coal pit underneath.—*Ibid*.

December 1.—About five o'clock on the morning, a fire was discovered at the mill occupied by Mr. Thomas Tickell, at Houghton-le-Spring, caused, it was supposed, by the machinery breaking away all the fastenings, from the heavy gale which blew that night. With the assistance of the neighbours, who ran great risk of their lives, the fire was fortunately extinguished.—*Ibid*.

December 3.—On the evening of this day (Wednesday), as an apprentice to Mr. W. Nesom, butcher, Sunderland, was driving two oxen into that town, they both took fright. One of them ran to the sea beach and was soon secured, but the other galloped on to the Pier, and leapt into the sea, and swam to the buoys about 400 yards from the entrance of the harbour. It was quite dark at the time. Fortunately a coble was at hand, which put to sea, and the crew,

after a good deal of difficulty, succeeded in getting a rope round the neck of the animal. They then towed it into the harbour, where it was safely landed. It then walked quietly to Mr. Nesom's shop, amidst a great crowd of spectators.—*Local Papers*.

1828 (Dec. 6).—About five o'clock in the evening, a small corn loft, the property of Mr. Scott, maltster, at the foot of the Bottle Bank, Gateshead, came down with a heavy crash, to the no small alarm of the neighbourhood. The building had not been erected above eight or nine years, and decay was no way perceptible. There was about thirteen lasts of barley in it at the time. The maltman and his son had a narrow escape; they were going up the yard on their way to the building at the moment of its giving way.—*Ibid*.

December 8.—As a coachman was returning from Whitley towards North Shields with a carriage and pair, the horses taking fright, darted forward, threw the driver from his seat, and continued at a rapid pace, clearing all the turns until they arrived at Shields, where they passed along several streets, and finished their career by running down the long and steep steps that lead from Dockway-square to the Low-Light, without any other injury than a broken pole. The coachman was not much hurt.—*Ibid*.

December.—A very splendid organ was erected in the parish church of Ryton, Durham, which, both for quality of tone and power,



RYTON CHURCH (1838).

is exceeded by very few in this part of the country, and does infinite credit to the builders, Messrs. Wood, Small, and Comp., of Edinburgh.—*Local Papers*.

1828 (Dec. 12).—A few minutes before twelve o'clock, a bullet entered through the upper part of a window in the Guildhall, Newcastle, into a room where Mr. Thomas Forsyth, the town marshal and several of the police officers were sitting. It struck against the opposite wall and fell upon the floor without injury to any person. No discovery was made whence, or from whom it came, though no doubt was entertained that the object was an attempt of some miscreant on the life of Mr. Forsyth.—*Ibid*.

December 20.—As some workmen were digging in the kitchen of an old house in Warren street, Sunderland, for the purpose of lowering the floor, they found a human skeleton, quite entire, about two feet below the floor which had been a flagged one. Conjectures with respect to this deposit were numerous, but none satisfactory, so that the circumstance relating to the interment of the body remained veiled in mystery.—*Ibid*.

December.—This month the Royal Humane Society presented £5. to Edward Birney, joiner at the Glass-works of sir M. W. Ridley, bart. and Co., Newcastle, for having on the 30th of September preceding, rescued from drowning, Eleanor Jobling, a little girl who had fallen into the Tyne. The reward was obtained through the benevolent interference of the duke of Northumberland.—*Ibid*.

Died, this year, at Chatham, North America, highly respected, aged 88, Robert Reid, esq. formerly high sheriff and register of the county of Northumberland. He held the sheriffalty 21 years, and kept the registry till 1823. In early life Mr. Reid acted ten years as amanuensis to Dr. Adam Smith, the celebrated author of the *Wealth of Nations*. He was well known to several people who are still alive in Scotland, and various anecdotes are still current of him and his illustrious employer. The apartment is yet to be seen at Kirkaldy, where the one dictated and the other transcribed that celebrated work. The positions can still be pointed out where the amanuensis sat at his little table, and where the philosopher sat in his chair by the fire, leaning his head to the wall.—*Gent's. Mag.*

This year, the following whimsical exemption from the militia appeared amongst the returns posted on the door of St. Mary's church, in Gateshead:—"Exempt—a recruiting sergeant in the army of Immanuel, whose kingdom is not of this world, viz.—a licensed Wesleyan Methodist Preacher." Signed. "Hodgson Casson." Mr. Casson at the time was the minister of the methodist chapel in Gateshead.—*Local Rec.*

1828.—Died, this year, in Paris, Miss Helen Maria Williams, pre-eminent amongst the violent female partisans of the French Revolution. She is said to have been born about the year 1762; was a native of the north of England, and resided some time at Berwick. Miss Williams went to London at the age of eighteen, and was introduced to the world, as a writer, by Dr. Kippis. She was the avowed author of many works. Her first poem was "Edwin and Elfrida," a legendary tale, in verse, published in 1782. She next produced, in 1783, "An Ode on Peace;" in 1784, "Peru," a poem; in 1786, in two volumes, "A Collection of Miscellaneous Poems;" and, in 1788, "Poems on the Slave Trade." About the last mentioned year, she visited France, where she formed many literary and political connexions, and where she published several works, the effects of which were, to render the French Revolution popular amongst certain parties in England, and to recommend their author to the Brissotins at Paris. In the succeeding clash of factions, she was in great danger, and was actually confined in the Temple; but, on the fall of Robespierre, she was released. After her liberation, she resumed her literary labours, and for some years wrote that portion of the New Annual Register, which related to the affairs of France. Subsequently Miss Williams appeared only as the enemy of the revolution, and a friend to the Bourbons.—*Mon. Mag.*

This year the library of the Botanical and Horticultural Society of Northumberland and Durham was established.—*Ibid.*





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THE BORDERER'S
TABLE BOOK;
OR,
GATHERINGS
OF THE
Local History and Romance
OF THE
ENGLISH AND SCOTTISH BORDER.

BY
M. A. RICHARDSON.

IN EIGHT VOLUMES,
ILLUSTRATED BY UPWARDS OF NINE HUNDRED WOOD-CUTS.

VOL. IV. HISTORICAL DIVISION.

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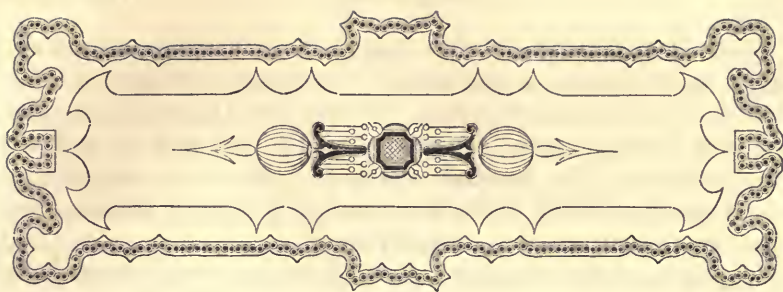
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THE LOCAL HISTORIAN'S TABLE BOOK, &c., &c.

CHAPTER I.

A. D. 1829.



ABOUT three hundred members of the Loyal Standard Association, North Shields, preceded by a band of music, flags, &c., attended Divine service, on the 1st of January, 1829, when an impressive discourse was delivered by the rev. William Mark, B. A., from Galatians, vi. 9. This association for the mutual relief of sailors belonging to North Shields and its vicinity, and their families in case of shipwreck, sickness, &c., was formed in October, 1824, and at the above period consisted of upwards of 2,000 members, who contributed to their fund upwards of £150 per month. Its beneficial influence may be judged of from the following statement:—

Paid to Sick Members from 1st January, to 31st			
December, 1828	£506	8	0
— on Account of Shipwreck,	208	4	0
— on Account of Death,	217	0	0
Total in 1828,	931	12	0

—*Local Papers.*

1829 (Jan. 1).—About two o'clock in the afternoon, a small cottage, at Sunnyside, in the county of Durham, belonging to Mr. Grainger, was completely burnt. The fire it was supposed was owing to three children having been playing with the fire while in the house by themselves. The furniture was saved; but it was only owing to the greatest exertions that a large stack of hay nearly adjoining was preserved from the flames.—*Local Papers*.

January 1.—The Brothers, of Sunderland, a small vessel laden with bricks for the new town of Seaham, entered that harbour and discharged her cargo; on which occasion, she being the first arrival, colours were displayed in every direction.—*Ibid*.

January 2.—The Northumberland hounds started a fox at Horton Whin, and after a run of above two hours, lost him at Elswick. He was soon after observed attempting to take shelter in a garden in Thornton street, Newcastle, but stuck fast in the paling. A boy pulled him out by the tail, and then he ran down the street and into another garden, and thence into a yard, where he was killed by the dogs, which had regained the scent, and the hunters having by this time come up.—*Ibid*.

January 3.—The foundation stone of a new and extensive mansion-house, to be executed in the Gothic style, for Henry John William Collingwood, esq., at Lilburn tower, near Wooler, in Northumberland, was laid with much ceremony. About one o'clock, Mr. Collingwood accompanied by several gentlemen and a large body of peasantry arrived, when Mr. C. with an elegant silver trowel, proceeded to perform the ceremony, under the direction of Mr. John Dobson, the architect, who exhibited several highly-finished drawings of the intended structure. Under the stone were deposited two glass vessels, one containing the different coins of the reign of George IV., the other a newspaper of the 3rd of January, together with a MS. containing the following names:—"Robert Hall, Alnwick, mason; Thomas Wallace and Sons, Newcastle, carpenters and joiners; Ralph Dodds, Newcastle, plasterer; Robert Wallace, clerk of the works." Both vessels were sealed with the arms of Collingwood. A glass plate was also inclosed of very curious workmanship, done by Pellat and Green, London, patentees of inerustation, bearing the following inscription:—"The foundation stone of this building, Lilburn Tower, was laid by Henry John William Collingwood, esq., on the 3rd of January, 1829, being the anniversary of his marriage with Frances Carnaby Haggerston.—John Dobson, esq., architect, Newcastle." After the ceremony the whole of the party joined in three times three cheers; after which, "Prosperity to the house of Collingwood and success to the building," was drank on the spot. Mr. Collingwood and his friends then retired

to a dinner provided on the occasion. The workmen and the neighbouring people were plentifully regaled with bread and cheese, and strong ale, &c.—*Local Papers.*

1829 (Jan. 6).—At a monthly meeting of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle, a motion was made, pursuant to a notice at the previous meeting, that the cast of Lough's colossal statue of Milo, presented by him, and which had been placed in the large room of the institution, should be removed to some more private situation (the committee-room was suggested) until the intended arcade behind the building could be erected. The reasons assigned for this motion were, that it was against the original intention of the society to accumulate such works, and that it was offensive to good taste. After some discussion the motion was negatived by a very large majority.—*Ibid.*

January 7.—Brunswick-place chapel, Newcastle, was re-opened, after being closed for several weeks, undergoing new painting and other improvements. The rev. Mr. Lessey, preached, after which a collection was made in aid of the improvements. A splendid new organ of 18 stops, built by Messrs. Wood, Small, and Bruce, of Edinburgh, was put up, the former one having been found too small for so large a building. What is called the great organ, consists of 12 stops, being the same number as that of St. Nicholas' church in that town; the double diapason, clarion, trumpet, and stopped diapason, are particularly fine. The instrument is also supplied with composition pedals, by which the stops can be worked without withdrawing the hands from the keys. The front is an unique and elegant specimen of the Gothic style, after a design of Mr. T. M. Richardson, artist, of Newcastle.—*Ibid.*

January.—This month, one of those rare and beautiful gold coins, a rose-noble of Edward I., was found on the estate of William Pawson, esq., of Shawdon, in Northumberland. On the impress is a figure of the monarch seated in an ancient ship, bearing on his shoulder a shield containing the arms of England, France, and Ireland, with the the legend, "*Sic ibi at per undas.*"—*Ibid.*

January 10.—The Slaley hounds put out a fox near the ancient remains of Dilston castle. Reynard took a westerly direction through the low part of Hexhamshire, by West Dipton to Haydon Bridge, where he crossed "coaly Tyne," went north to Sewingshiel crags, and thence west to Barkham; but, being turned southward, he again crossed the same river at Bardon mill, and after a fine run of not less than fifty miles, was killed near Coanwood. A number of sportsmen were in the field, who were highly delighted with the hunt.—*Ibid.*

1829 (Jan. 16).—Being the anniversary of the birth of the hon. Charles William Lambton, son of the late earl of Durham, the union society of change ringers, belonging to Newcastle and Gateshead, rang 4536 changes of grandsire triples upon the bells of St. Mary's church, Gateshead, in two hours and fifty-eight minutes. This was a feat which had never been performed on these bells on any similar occasion before. The bells of the several churches in Durham were rung on the same occasion.—*Local Papers*.

January 25.—Died, in London, at a very advanced age, upwards of 80 years, Mr. William Shield, the eminent composer.—Mr. Shield was born at Whickham, in the county of Durham, and was first taught



WHICKHAM CHURCH (1836).

to modulate his voice and practice the violin, when he was only six years old, by his father, and subsequently received a few lessons of thorough-bass in his juvenile years, from the celebrated Avison, of Newcastle. At the death of his father he was bound apprentice to Edward Davison, boat-builder, in South Shields; and, during his servitude, led the Newcastle subscription concerts, where he repeatedly played the solo parts of Geminiani's and Giordini's concertos. Having produced an admired specimen of sacred music, when the new chapel was to be consecrated at Sunderland, he was requested to compose the anthem, which was performed by the then excellent Durham choir, to an immense congregation, in the year 1769. At Scarborough, in the fashionable spa season, he was the occasional leader of the concerts, and the constant one in the orchestra of the theatre, for which he composed many songs written by Cunningham, the pastoral poet, who was an actor in Bates' company at that period. At this time he accepted an offer to fill a vacant seat in the orchestra

of the Italian Opera-house, London, and after being there many years, he became the musical director of Covent-garden theatre, and was also appointed one of the musicians in ordinary to his majesty. At the death of sir William Parsons, his majesty George IV., most graciously appointed him master of his musicians in ordinary. His works are very numerous; perhaps no writer is so remarkable for songs containing so much that is strictly national; and, after Purcell, Shield was considered to be the finest and most perfect example of really English writers.—*Gent's Mag.*, &c.

January 26.—The bachelors of Durham gave a brilliant ball at the assembly-rooms, in that city, and, notwithstanding the unfavourable state of the weather, there were 216 persons present, comprising nearly all the rank and fashion of the county, besides several families of rank and consequence from Newcastle and its neighbourhood. The dresses of the ladies were very splendid. Dancing commenced at ten o'clock; and the ball was led off by the marchioness of Londonderry and William Russell, esq., M. P., of Brancepath castle. At half-past twelve o'clock the company sat down to a splendid supper, at which John Allan, esq., of Blackwell, presided, and William Mills, esq., of Willington, officiated as vice-president. The chairman proposed the health of the ladies and gentlemen who had honoured the bachelors with their presence. The marquis of Londonderry, after acknowledging the compliment, proposed the health of the bachelors. Mr. Allan, in a very humorous speech, returned thanks, and expressed great confidence that the fascinations of the ladies present would have the happy effect of speedily reducing the number of his unfortunate brethren who, he was instructed to say, were heartily tired of their "single blessedness," and concluded by proposing the healths of the single ladies. Mr. Shafto, of Whitworth park, proposed the health of Mr. Allan, which was drunk with the greatest enthusiasm. The healths of the committee of management were then proposed, and a high compliment paid for their excellent arrangements. Mr. Robert Henry Allan returned thanks on behalf of the committee. The healths of the marquis of Cleveland, Mr. Russell, and Mr. Ralph Lambton, were proposed in appropriate speeches. Dancing was resumed at half-past two o'clock, and kept up with great spirit till six o'clock on the morning. The following are the names of the bachelors, the donors of the splendid entertainment. viz.:—1. * John Fawcett, esq., Newton hall; 2. * Rev. C. Fawcett, Durham; 3. * Henry Stapylton, esq., Durham; 4. * W. E. Wooler, esq., Durham; 5. J. D. Lambton, esq., Durham; 6. Thomas Griffith, esq., Durham; 7. George Apple-

* Those marked with an asterick, formed the committee of management.

by, esq., Durham; 8. George Wilkinson, esq., Durham; 9. G. P. Hutchinson, esq., Chilton; 10. Robert Burrell, jun., esq., Durham; 11. * Robert Henry Allan, esq., Durham; 12. William Mills, esq., Willington; 13. A. W. Hutchinson, esq., Durham; 14. T. C. Grainger, esq., Durham; 15. G. D. Wooler, esq., Fawnlees; 16. William Russell, esq., M. P., Brancepath castle; 17. H. J. Spearman, esq., Durham; 18. A. Wilkinson, esq., Coxhoe hall; 19. William Allan, esq., Blackwell grange; 20. Thomas Maude, esq., Solaby; 21. Gerard Salvin, esq., Croxdale; 22. John Allan, esq., Blackwell; 23. W. R. C. Chaytor, esq., Witton castle; 24. Rev. S. Gamlen, Heighington; 25. Rev. T. Ebdon, Durham; 26. Edward Shipperdson, esq., Durham; 27. Hutton Chaytor, esq., Witton castle; 28. Rowland Burdon, jun., esq., Castle Eden; 29. C. Raine, esq., Gainford; 30. Thomas Fenwick, esq., South hill; 31. John Chaytor, esq., Witton castle; 32. R. D. Shafto, esq., Whitworth park; 33. Rev. O. J. Cresswell, Seaham; 34. William Williamson, esq., Whitburn; 25. Richard Wright, esq., Sands; 36. A. Story, esq., Chester-le-Street; 37. John Hutchinson, esq., Durham; 38. William Trotter, esq., Bishop Auckland; 39. F. D. Johnson, esq., Aykley Heads; 40. H. F. Mills, esq., Willington,—*Local Papers*.

1829 (Jan. 29).—A grand ball was given by William Russell, esq., M. P., at Brancepath castle, to the gentry of the county of Durham, &c., when the honourable gentleman was honoured by the presence of an assemblage of visitors, as conspicuous, perhaps, for rank, wealth, youth and beauty, as ever was witnessed in that neighbourhood; and it may be truly said, that an entertainment more princely in its nature, or one that imparted more perfect satisfaction to those who were present, was never given in the north on any previous occasion. The whole of the external arrangements of the castle had a fine appearance; but, striking as these were, they were but trifling in comparison with the matchless brilliancy of the preparations made for the reception of the company within—preparations alike extensive and splendid, and on a scale of truly baronial magnificence. The great dining-room was fitted up for dancing, and in the retiring-rooms adjoining, refreshments of every kind were set out for the use of the company. The guests after passing through the entrance-hall (in which Mr. Russell's private band was stationed), the baron's hall, and the break-fast room, were received by their honourable host in the drawing-room, from whence they proceeded to the ball room. The appearance of this was beautiful in the extreme. The rich and elegant dresses of the ladies, and the blaze of beauty, far eclipsing the extrinsic decorations by which the company were surrounded, presented a scene of the most dazzling splendour, grace, and loveliness. The

ball opened with a country dance, led off by the marchioness of Londonderry and Mr. Russell, which was followed by quadrilles and waltzes, which continued till two o'clock, when supper was announced, and the party were ushered to a collation of the most sumptuous and costly description, in the armour-gallery and the octagon-room, where upwards of two hundred sat down to the banquet.—Mr. Russell presided at the centre, with the hon. captain Cochrane opposite to him, and colonel Mills at the upper end, and Mr. Allan, of Blackwell, at the lower end of the table. On the conclusion of the supper Mr. Russell said, that this being the anniversary of the king's accession to the throne, he would take the opportunity of proposing his majesty's health, which was drunk with acclamation. The health of Mr. Russell was next drunk with great enthusiasm, and the following toasts were drunk in succession:—"The Ladies," "The marquis of Londonderry," "Mr. Bell and Northumberland," and "Mrs. Russell." After supper the ladies returned to the ball-room, where dancing was resumed a little before four o'clock with great spirit, and maintained by the gay and happy throng until a much later hour.—*Local Papers.*

1829 (Jan. 29).—Being the anniversary of his majesty's accession to the throne, the union society of change ringers belonging to Newcastle, rang a peal of Holt's gransire triples, consisting of 5040 changes, on the bells of Gateshead church, in three hours and seventeen minutes. This peal had not been rung upon these bells since the year 1794.—*Ibid.*

January 30.—In compliance with a requisition, very respectably signed, the chamberlains of the borough of Alnwick convened a meeting of the inhabitants at the town-hall, to take into consideration "the propriety of presenting an address to his grace the duke of Northumberland, previous to his grace's departure from Alnwick castle, to enter upon his official duties as lord-lieutenant of Ireland." The meeting, composed of the principal inhabitants, was numerously attended, and John Lambert, esq., (under sheriff of Northumberland) was called to the chair. After some preliminary observations, expressive of the beneficence and amiable qualities of the noble duke, an address was proposed and unanimously agreed to, and a deputation appointed to present it. His grace having named the next day, at 12 o'clock, to receive the address, the deputation, consisting of Jno. Lambert, J. Liethhead, G. Selby, Jos. Hardy, William Strother, W. F. Bow, M. D., P. Dennis, and Wm. Dixon, esquires, the rev. W. Proctor, the rev. Thomas Ingham, and Messrs. J. Lindsay, Joseph Graham, E. Cattanaach, W. Hindmarsh, and M. Smith, proceeded to the castle, and were received by his grace in the grand saloon. After the address had been read by Mr. Lambert, that

gentleman passed a very high encomium on his grace's good qualities, to which his grace made a suitable reply. The deputation, after partaking of refreshments provided for them in an adjoining room, left the castle much pleased with the urbanity of his grace, and the reception he had given them.—*Local Papers.*

1829 (Jan. 31).—Died, at his house in Saville row, Newcastle, after a long and painful illness, Mr. Henry Atkinson, schoolmaster, aged 47 years. As a mathematician, he had few equals, and his knowledge of various subjects was both comprehensive and accurate. He was born on the 28th of June, 1781, at West Harle, Northumberland, and was the son of Mr. Cuthbert Atkinson, afterwards a schoolmaster at great Bavington. He commenced teaching in his 13th year, in the neighbourhood where he was born, but removed to Newcastle in the year 1808. In the following year he became a member of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle, from which time, until his death, he was one of its most distinguished members. He was chosen one of the committee of that body in the year 1817, and was re-elected every succeeding year, until the anniversary preceding his death, when he declined on account of bad health. Mr. A. was the author of many valuable mathematical and other papers, many of which were read at the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle. He was also a valuable contributor to the ladies' and gentlemen's diaries, and obtained the prizes in the former in the years 1811, 1816, and 1823, and in the latter in 1819. In the year 1827, Mr. Atkinson delivered a course of lectures on Astronomy in the lecture-room of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle.—*Ibid.*

February 2.—At the court of Windsor, present the king's most excellent majesty in council, his majesty was pleased to declare, Hugh duke of Northumberland, knight of the most noble order of the garter, lieutenant-general and general-governor of that part of the united kingdom called Ireland. His grace left Alnwick castle for London on the 4th February. Her grace the duchess passed through Newcastle on the preceding day.—*Ibid.*

February 6.—The Newcastle newspapers published this day, (Friday) contained an advertisement offering £100 reward for the apprehension of a man named Jonathan Martin, charged with having set fire to York minster, which was discovered in flames on the morning of the 2nd of February. As soon as the papers reached Hexham, no time was lost in commencing a search for Martin, whose person and haunts were well known, and by eleven o'clock on the forenoon he was in the custody of Mr. Stainthorpe, the sheriff's officer. Stainthorpe, on reading the advertisement, instantly set off on horseback northwards, called at Wall Barns, the residence of Mr. Thomp-

son, a relation of Martin, where he learnt his retreat, and proceeding to Codlaw-hill, about four miles from Hexham, he found the delinquent in the house of Mr. E. Kell; the latter ignorant of the enormities with which his guest was charged, accompanied the officer with his prisoner to Hexham, where, without the least resistance, he was lodged in the house of correction. Martin, who had long laboured under aberration of mind, seemed to have no consciousness of guilt for the crime he had committed; he was visited by several gentlemen on Friday afternoon, to whom he was remarkably communicative, not only acknowledging the deed, but defending his conduct, and even expressing his satisfaction at his plan having been so effective. On Sunday the 8th, Mr. Newstead of York, arrived in Newcastle, and proceeded to Hexham, from whence he returned with the prisoner in a post chaise, accompanied by Mr. Stainthorpe and Mr. Richard Nicholson, in whose custody at a lunatic asylum on Gateshead Fell, Martin had formerly been. The prisoner was lodged in the gaol at Newcastle,



INTERIOR OF THE GAOL, NEWCASTLE (1826). From the Entrance Tower.

from one o'clock till three o'clock in the afternoon, during which a large concourse of people collected in the streets adjoining the prison. One of the rooms in the entrance building had been prepared for him, and while there, Mr. Sopwith, the governor of the gaol, repressed all attempts to obtain information from the prisoner. He sent him some dinner, which he ate with great relish, and drank a quantity of

water. He wore the double breasted blue coat, with yellow buttons, blue trowsers, and half boots, described in the advertisement; and though rather jaded with fatigue, he seemed in perfectly good spirits, and quite rational and innocent in his behaviour. The pockets of his drab great coat contained some pieces of candles, and Mr. Stainthorpe had in his possession the black leather case in which he carried the tinder to the cathedral, and in which were small fragments of stained glass. He had also a white hafted razor, hacked on the back, with which he struck the fatal spark, and some curtains and tassels which he had abstracted from the cathedral. The prisoner and his conductors arrived at York about three o'clock on Monday morning in a post chaise. The magistrates, &c., having been assembled for his examination, the whole of the proceedings were over soon after six o'clock, and he was committed to the city gaol. Few persons knew of his arrival, consequently all mobing was avoided. Martin's trial came on at York on the 31st of March, and after a trial of upwards of ten hours, the jury found a verdict of not guilty, on the ground of insanity. He was removed on the 28th of April to the criminal lunatic asylum, St. George's fields, London, to be confined for life. This unfortunate maniac was born in the year 1782, at Highside house, near Hexham, of humble parents, who apprenticed him to a tanner. In his 22nd year he went to London, where he was impressed and sent to sea on board the *Hereules*, a 74 gun ship. While on board this vessel he was engaged in the bombardment of Copenhagen. He was afterwards engaged in the blockade of the Russian ships in the Tagus, and from thence sailed to Corunna, where the wreck of sir John Moore's army was embarked. Subsequently he sailed to Egypt, being then "under strong religious impressions," and was "filled with delight on beholding the place where our Blessed Lord took refuge from the rage of Herod." He travelled the northern counties selling copies of a pamphlet, entitled, "*The Life of Jonathan Martin, of Darlington, tanner, written by himself, &c. Barnard-castle, printed for, and sold by the author, by Thomas Clifton, 1826, price 8d.*" 8vo. This very curious pamphlet is embellished with equally curious engravings by his brother, William Martin, the Natural Philosopher and Poet. The subjects are,—1. The Colosses at Rhodes. 2. His providential escape from a watery grave in the Bay of Biscay four different times; and, 3. His providential escape from the Asylum House, on Gateshead fell. He was at this period, dressed in a very eccentric manner, having on a pair of trowsers and a waistcoat made of seals' skin, with the hair outwards; this he said was for the purpose of resisting any wet weather which he might encounter in his travels to sell his

pamphlets which were contained in a pair of saddle bags thrown across his shoulders.—*Gent's. Mag., &c.*

1829 (Feb. 6).—A grand subterranean ball was given to the workmen and others employed at Gosforth colliery, on account of the coal having been won on the Saturday (January 31st) previous. The ball room, which was situated at the depth of nearly 1,100 feet below the surface of the earth, was in the shape of an L, whose width was fifteen feet, base twenty-two feet, and perpendicular forty-eight feet. Seats were placed on the sides of the room, the floor was flagged, and the whole place was brilliantly illuminated with lamps and candles. The company began to assemble and descend about half-past nine on the morning, and continued to do so till one in the afternoon. Immediately on their arrival at the bottom of the shaft, they proceeded to the face, that is the extremity of the drift, where each person hewed a piece of coal as a remembrance of the descent, and returned to enjoy the pleasures of the ball-room. As soon as the guests had descended, dancing commenced, and was continued without intermission till three o'clock in the afternoon, when all ascended once more to the upper regions in safety, much pleased and gratified with the amusements in which they had partaken. The Coxlodge band was in attendance, cold punch, malt liquor, and biscuits of all kinds were in abundance. There were present between 200 and 300 persons, nearly one-half of whom were females.—*Local Papers.*

February 7.—A Swan was shot, near Haydon Bridge, in Northumberland, which came into the possession of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle, and on being sent to Mr. R. R. Wingate, to be preserved for the Museum, was by him discovered to be a new species, perfectly distinct from the common Wild Swan. Mr. Wingate's notice and description of this bird was read before the Natural History Society of Northumberland, Durham, and Newcastle, on the 20th of October 1829, and in a paper entitled "Observations on the new Species of Swan," &c. by P. J. Selby, esq. read before the same Society, on the 16th of February 1830, the accuracy of Mr. Wingate's views were fully confirmed; and it was recommended that it ought, without further hesitation, to be added to the list of our native Fauna. To facilitate this it was happily suggested, that it should receive the specific appellation of *Bewickii*, as a mark of respect, justly due, to the memory of our late celebrated naturalist and engraver, Thomas Bewick, whose name must for ever remain associated, in the minds of all lovers of Natural History, with British Ornithology.—*Nat. Hist. Soc. Trans.*

February 19.—A policy of insurance was introduced into Lloyd's which attracted much attention. It was for £90,000. on the plate

and jewels of the duke of Northumberland, from London to Dublin, for all risks for one year. The premium was charged 25s. per cent. February 27th, the William Faucit steam vessel arrived in the river Liffey from London, laden principally with the baggage and plate of his grace the duke of Northumberland. She had on board four of his grace's carriages, and about two hundred packages of various kinds, including the plate. March 2nd, the duke and duchess left London for Ireland; they proceeded in the first instance to the seat of earl Powis, the father of the duchess. March 6th, their graces arrived at Dublin, where they were received by upwards of twenty thousand spectators with the most joyous cheering.—*Local Papers.*

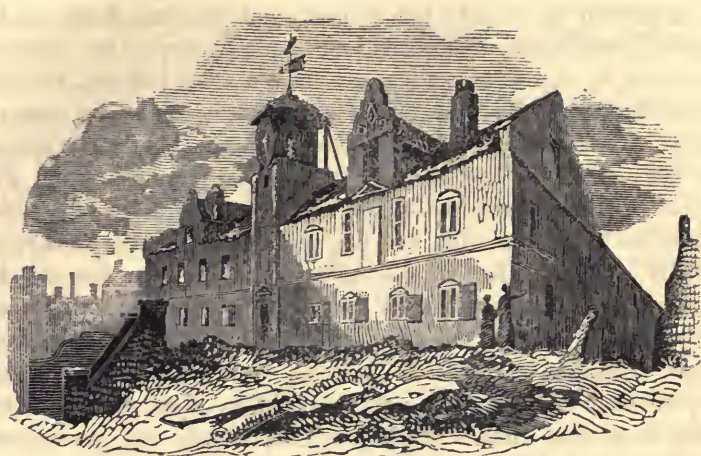
1829 (Feb).—A complete gangway or draw jetty, which could be elevated and depressed at pleasure, was erected on the Quay at Newcastle, at the expense of the corporation of that town, for the convenience of passengers to and from the steam packets. Hitherto the lives of the passengers were in imminent danger. A similar erection has since been put up on the New Quay at North Shields.—*Ibid.*

March 1.—Died, in Howard-street, South Shields, Alice Gibson, widow of William Gibson, town-crier, aged 101 years.—*Ibid.*

March 5.—The foundation stone of a new Independant chapel was laid in King's-street, Morpeth, and on Sunday the 15th a discourse was delivered by the rev. Thomas Wood, A.B., on the principles of congregational dissent. 'Viscount Morpeth, M.P., and William Ord, esq., M.P., each presented £5., towards the erection. September 20th, this chapel was opened for divine service. Sermons were preached by the rev. Thomas Wood, and the rev. W. H. Stowell, of North Shields, and collections were made, amounting to upwards of £30.—*Ibid.*

March 7.—The building of the Leazes-terrace and the Leazes-crescent were commenced by Mr. Richard Grainger.—*Ibid.*

Same day, Jane Jameson was executed on the town-moor, Newcastle, for the murder of her mother, Margaret Jameson, an inmate of the Keelmen's hospital, by stabbing her to the heart with a red hot poker. After her condemnation on the 5th, she was frequently visited in her cell by the rev. Robert Green, chaplain of the prison, who gave her all the religious consolation in his power. When exhorted by the chaplain to unburden her mind and confess the justice of the sentence under which she was about to suffer, she replied, "I might as well say that I had done it, as that I had not done it, for I was so drunk that I knew nothing at all about it." She said that she was resigned to her fate, but lamented being hanged like a dog. At seven o'clock on the Saturday morning she was visited by the rev. R. Green, who continued in prayer with her



THE KEELMEN'S HOSPITAL (1843). South Front, from the Terrace.

for some time. The sacrament was administered at eight o'clock, when, besides the chaplain, there were present the rev. W. A. Shute, and the rev. F. A. West, Wesleyan minister. A quarter before nine she was pinioned, and in a few minutes the cart arrived at the gaol which was to convey her to the place of execution. Mr. Turner, the turnkey, got into it with her in order to support her, but she sat amazingly firm all the way. About nine o'clock the procession moved at a very slow pace, in the following order:—The town serjeants on horseback in black, with cocked hats and swords; the town marshal also on horseback in his official costume; the cart with the prisoner sitting on her coffin, guarded on each side by eight free porters with javelins, and ten constables with their staves; then came a mourning coach containing the rev. R. Green, Mr. Adamson, under sheriff, Mr. Sopwith, gaoler, and Mr. Scott, clerk of St. Andrews. The unhappy woman kept her eyes shut all the way, as she had been desired, that her thoughts might not be disturbed by the sight of the crowd. Having arrived at the gallows, which was erected on the town-moor, a little N.W. of the barracks, at a few minutes before ten o'clock, the rev. R. Green prayed with her, and a psalm was sung; the rev. gentleman recommended her to continue in prayer till the last moment, which she appeared to do, then shook hands with her, and bidding her farewell, said, “May Almighty God have mercy on your soul.” She was uncommonly firm, and when the cap was placed over her face, she got on a stool upon the platform in the cart, and when the cord was adjusted about her neck, she said in a steady tone of voice, “I am ready,” then stooping as if to meet her fate, she was launched into eternity almost without a struggle. She

The joiners' bill, was for erecting the temporary gallows, making the coffin, &c. &c.—*Local Rec.*, &c.

1829 (March 10).—Mr. Peel having announced his intention of bringing before parliament a bill to remove certain civil disabilities from his majesty's Roman Catholic subjects, making them eligible to every office in the state, excepting those of lord chancellor, lord keeper of the seal, and lord lieutenant of Ireland, two very inveterate parties arose in Newcastle, which were strongly opposed to each other, inso-much that the town for some weeks was inundated with party papers. At length the liberals, as those in favour of the Catholics styled themselves, sent a requisition to the mayor, to call a public meeting "to consider the expediency of petitioning parliament for a removal of the civil disabilities which affect his majesty's Roman Catholic subjects." This his worship agreed to, and appointed the above day in the Guildhall. The anti-catholic party apprehending that their opponents would pre-occupy this place, and that they would be outvoted, addressed a requisition to the mayor, to change the place of meeting "to the Spital, Forth, or any other place which will give an opportunity for a fair and decisive expression of public opinion." In accordance with this, a public meeting was held in the Spital-field on the above day. The mayor, in order to allow sufficient space for all who might be desirous of attending and expressing their sentiments, appointed this spacious area which would hold above twenty thousand persons, for the discussion of the question. Very extensive hustings were erected on the north side of the green, and at one o'clock (the time appointed) the right worshipful Robert Bell, esq., mayor, took the chair. The friends of the Catholic claims took the right, with a board affixed to the adjoining building, inscribed "The Hustings of the Liberal Protestants," while those anxious to "prevent a breach into the constitution of 1688," occupied the opposite side. Both parties mustered strong; the "Liberals" marched from the Turk's head inn to the hustings in a body, headed by James Losh, esq., Dr. Headlam, and W. H. Ord, esq., of Whitfield. On the mayor taking the chair, he was welcomed with hearty cheers from both parties, and he rose and addressed the meeting. His worship said he wished to occupy the time of his auditors for a short period, in order to exonerate himself from the charge of partiality, which he understood had been brought against him, for refusing, on the application of the vicar of Newcastle, to convene a meeting in the Guildhall for the purpose of opposing the Catholic claims, and to oppose the measures intended to be introduced to parliament by his majesty's ministers. It was his wish that the clergy should not interfere in a question wherein he thought his majesty's ministers were quite capable of acting for us ;

but he soon heard that they had nevertheless got up a petition against the Catholic claims, and thus rendered it necessary to make an effort on the contrary side. A second request had consequently been made by that party to him, and in compliance with their requisition, he had convened a meeting in the Guildhall for that purpose, when another requisition had been presented by the former party, requesting a more ample space, and in order that all so inclined might deliver their sentiments, he had changed the place to where they were at present assembled, but still he thought interference unnecessary, as he was confident that ministers were best enabled to take care of the measures they had introduced under the sanction of the highest authority. The principal speakers in favour of the Catholics were, James Losh, esq., Dr. Headlam, and W. H. Ord, esq.—against granting concessions to the Catholics, William Chapman, esq., Mr. Joseph Clark, the rev. F. A. West, Wesleyan minister, Mr. J. F. Grant, and Mr. J. R. Featherstone. With the exception of some little squabbling among the speakers, the greatest order prevailed, indeed the mayor took every means to avoid mischief, having ordered, by a handbill, that no banners should be exhibited. The mayor having desired a shew of hands for and against the petition, he said, “gentlemen, the petition in favour of the Catholics is rejected.” Immense cheering followed the decision. Dr. Headlam appearing not satisfied with the result, demanded that the parties should separate into two bodies, which was instantly done, and the great majority of the opponents of the petition was evident beyond doubt. The Mayor then said, “I cannot dismiss this meeting without declaring my satisfaction at your peaceable conduct this day.” His worship then left the hustings.—*Local Papers, &c.*

1829 (March 11).—The vestry petitions against concession to the Roman Catholics were transmitted from Newcastle to London for presentation to parliament. The total number of signatures was 7,724, viz:—In the parish of St. Nicholas, 1,095; All Saints', 3,445; St. Andrew's, 1,694; St. John's, 1,490.—*Ibid.*

March 14.—In the night, a fire took place in St. John's church, Gateshead-fell, in consequence of some wood-work being placed too near the stove flues for heating the church. Fortunately it was discovered so early, that by prompt assistance and great exertions it was got under with the destruction of one pew.—*Ibid.*

March 19.—Died, at Brandling place, near Newcastle, Mr. Benjamin Thompson, aged 51 years. Mr. Thompson was a native of Jesmond, near Newcastle, and at an early age was bound an apprentice to Mr. Thompson, breadbaker, (no relation) in the Close, Newcastle. On the death of his master, he commenced business in the

same shop, and made a peculiar sort of household bread, which had an unprecedented sale, being used by many genteel families whom he furnished with it daily himself, carrying a heavy load of it in a basket upon his shoulders.* Although Mr. Thompson was particularly industrious and attentive to business, yet he devoted much of his time to the merits of paintings, and had visited nearly all the private collections in Newcastle and its neighbourhood. His judgment was frequently consulted by gentlemen in the purchase of paintings, prints, &c. When called upon by visitors, he was generally to be found toiling at his daily labour in the bakehouse, or, without his coat, in the front shop, in the midst of his smoking bread, which had just been drawn from the oven. He was without pride or ostentation, and his manners and costume were of the plainest kind. By attention to business he had acquired a handsome sum, the bulk of which he expended in the purchase of paintings, prints, books, china, swords, coins, &c. Thompson was particularly attached to local books and prints, so much so, that he was a patron of almost every thing which issued from the local press or burin. He also regularly visited the old furniture brokers, and by this means collected many valuable curiosities. For many years before his death he made it a rule at the breaking up of a house, which had belonged to any family of consequence, to purchase something as a memorial. Mr. Thompson was very charitable, and had several pensioners to whom he gave bread, &c., weekly; indeed his philanthropy was such, that to him the wretched never appealed in vain. Mr. Thompson was never married, consequently his furniture and every thing which he had collected, was sold by auction, on the premises in the Side, which he had occupied for several years previously, and the proceeds of the sale divided according to the tenor of his will.—*Local Rec. &c.*

1829 (March 19).—A numerous and respectable meeting of the parishioners of Tynemouth, took place to consider of an order that had been received from the board of ordnance, forbidding any interments in future in the castle yard. The vicar was in the chair. Thomas Wright, esq., of Whitley-park, and other gentlemen, shewed they had received grants from the governors of Tynemouth castle, for the burial of their families there. J. Tinley, esq., pointed out the impolicy of going to law on this occasion, and it was ultimately agreed

* Mr. Joseph Bell, painter, of Newcastle, at whose shop window Mr. Thompson frequently stopped, painted (unknown to Mr. T.) a portrait of him with the basket upon his shoulder. This, after the death of Mr. Bell, came into the possession of Mr. Thompson. It is quite a juvenile likeness. There is likewise an engraved portrait of Mr. Thompson from an original painting, made a few years before his death, and which is an excellent likeness.

to petition the board of ordnance to take off the prohibition, and if that should be unsuccessful, it was resolved to petition the king. June 18th, another meeting was held in the vestry-room, and adjourned to the body of the church, the rev. John Housby in the chair, to consider the propriety of accepting or refusing an offer made by the board of ordnance, of a portion of ground in lieu of an old parochial burial place, within the walls of Tynemouth priory. The meeting, after being addressed by several gentlemen, resolved, with only five dissentient voices, to refuse that offer, and unanimously agreed to present a memorial to his majesty, for a restoration of those rights of which they considered they had been unjustly and unnecessarily deprived by the board of ordnance. October 15th, a third meeting was held in the vestry-room of Tynemouth church, at which a letter from the secretary of state addressed to the vicar, was read in reply to a memorial to the king, respecting the right of the parishioners to bury within the walls of Tynemouth castle, in which it was stated, that in consequence of the board of ordnance not recognising the right, he declined advising the king to give any commands on the subject.—*Local Papers.*

1829 (March 22).—Died, William Stevenson, esq., of the Record office in the Treasury, a gentleman of considerable eminence in the literary and scientific world. Mr. Stevenson, was born at Beswick, on the 26th of November, 1772, was the author of an elaborate and useful work, entitled an “Historical Sketch of the Progress of Discovery, Navigation and Commerce.” Having devoted much of his time to agricultural pursuits, he wrote the agricultural survey of Surrey. He was also the author of the article on chivalry, in Dr. Brewster’s encyclopedia, the life of Caxton, published by the Society for the diffusion of useful knowledge, and several papers published in various reviews. During the latter part of his life, until the commencement of a severe indisposition, he was occupied, on the suggestion of Mr. Brougham (now lord Brougham), and under the auspices of the above society, in preparing for the press a series of treatises, intended for the edification of the agricultural classes. Mr. Stevenson had for some time laboured under repeated attacks of illness. On the 20th of March, however, he was apparently so much recovered, that his friends entertained the hope of his speedy restoration; but two days afterwards, when sitting at tea with his family, he suddenly became unable to raise the cup to his mouth, sunk back in his chair, and soon after expired. He was a man of profound research, of extensive knowledge, of scrupulous integrity; and he was universally respected.—*Ibid.*

March 24.—The foundation stone of the new butchers’, fish, poul-

try, fruit and vegetable market at Sunderland, was laid by the town-surveyor, Mr. Richard Dowell, in the presence of the commissioners and a great number of the inhabitants. Several coins of the reign of George IV. were deposited beneath the stone. The bells were rung on the occasion.—*Local Papers*.

1829 (March 26).—Lanton-house, in Northumberland, was robbed of every article which could be conveniently carried away, and the mansion was afterwards set on fire, and entirely consumed. Alexander Davison, esq., of Swarland, the proprietor, offered one hundred pounds for the apprehension of the incendiaries.—*Ibid*.

March 27.—Died, in Providence-row, in the city of Durham, Mr. Robert Davidson aged 103 years.—*Ibid*.

March.—Mr. John Martin, a native of Northumberland, the celebrated painter to his majesty, was presented with a large and handsome gold medal, on the part of the king of France, in acknowledgment of a copy of Mr. Martin's engravings, which his most christian majesty had been graciously pleased to accept. The medal bore a bust of the king on one side, and on the other (in French) "Presented to Mr. John Martin, by the king of France." The value of the gold was estimated at twenty guineas.—*Ibid*.

April 10.—As the brig Lion, of Sunderland, was going under the iron bridge, at that port, a boy, who had been striking the top-gallant mast, finding there was not room for him, had the presence of mind to get up amongst the iron work, where the ship left him, and he remained there until he was observed by the person who had the care of the bridge when he was got safely out.—*Ibid*.

April 11.—The bells of the several churches in Newcastle and Gateshead, were rung in honour of the marriage of lord Stormont to Miss Ellison, daughter of Cuthbert Ellison, esq., of Hebburn.—*Ibid*.

April 13.—The bells of Newcastle were rung to celebrate the birth of an heir to the house of Beaumont. The event was also similarly celebrated at Hexham, and other places.—*Ibid*.

Same day, "An act for building a bridge over the river Tyne, at or near a place called Scotswood, in the county of Northumberland, and for making convenient roads, avenues, and approaches thereto, with branches thereout," received the royal assent.—*Ibid*.

April 23.—St. George's day being the day on which the anniversary of the birth of his majesty was celebrated, was observed in Newcastle with the customary honours. Shortly after 12 o'clock, a party of the dismounted troop of the Northumberland and Newcastle yeomanry marched to the Sandhill and fired a feu-de-joie, the guns from the castle firing a royal salute. The chief magistrate, attended by several aldermen, then drank his majesty's health, followed by the

cheering of the troop, &c. Previous to the dismissal of the yeomanry they were addressed by their commander, M. de Cardonnel Lawson, esq. who complimented them on the manner in which they had acquitted themselves on the occasion, and presented them with a sum of money to regale themselves in honour of the day. The 7th Dragoon guards also fired a feu-de-joie on the town moor. The mayor entertained a numerous party to dinner on the occasion. The day was similarly observed at Durham, Sunderland, Alnwick, &c.—*Local Papers.*

1829 (April 23).—The foundation stone of the asylum for the members of the loyal standard association, at North Shields, was laid by John Tinley, esq., in the presence of a numerous assemblage of the members, their friends and patrons.—*Ibid.*

April 27.—Died, at his seat at Frogmore, near Hampstead, in consequence of a rupture of the septum of the heart, Thomas William Carr, esq., of Eshot, in Northumberland, F.R.S. He was born about the year 1770, at Charlestown, South Carolina, of which place his mother was a native, and his father at that time collector of customs. He served his clerkship as an attorney to Mr. George Brown, an eminent solicitor in Newcastle, and was entered a student at Gray's Inn. Having practised for several years as a special pleader, he was called to the bar about the year 1800, and in 1805, was made solicitor of excise. He inherited the estate of Eshot-Heugh, pursuant to the will of an uncle. He married Frances, third daughter of Andrew Morton, esq., of St. Anthony's, near Newcastle, by whom he had three sons and four daughters. His eldest son is solicitor of excise in Scotland; the second is in holy orders; and the third is a barrister in London. His eldest daughter married Dr. Lushington.—*Ibid.*

April 28.—Sunderland and its neighbourhood were visited by an awful storm of thunder and lightning, accompanied with a high wind. Part of the gable end of a house in the High street, belonging to Mr. Michael Reed, was blown down with a tremendous crash, on the roof of a public house occupied by Mrs. Thompson, which it stove in and did considerable damage. The sloop Bee, of Blyth, laden with limestone, from Sunderland to Blyth, was obliged to put back for Sunderland, (which place she left in the morning), having lost the whole of her canvas at sea, in a most tremendous gale of wind at N. E. and E. On returning she struck upon the bar, drove amongst the frame work, and soon after went to pieces. Great praise was due to Mr. Martin Douglas, coal-fitter, and others, for their exertions in saving the crew. The schooner George and Henrys, of Sunderland, laden with lime, for Scotland, went to sea the

same time as the Bee, and was obliged to put back. She made for the harbour, when there not being sufficient water for her, she struck upon the bar and sprung a leak; the water then getting to the lime, she took fire, and afterwards drove up into the harbour mouth, where she sunk.—*Local Papers*.

1829 (May 4).—The foundation stone of the new gas works at South Shields, was laid. On May 14th, the royal assent was given to “An act for lighting, watching, cleansing, regulating, and improving the town of South Shields, in the county palatine of Durham.”—*Ibid*.

May 7.—The large silver medal was awarded by the Society of Arts, London, to Mr. John Reed, of No. 6, Charlotte-street, Bloomsbury-square, second son of Archibald Reed, esq., alderman, of Newcastle, for a drawing in chalk from a bust.—*Ibid*.



VILLAGE OF KILLINGWORTH (1840).

May 11.—The races and sports at Killingworth, near Newcastle, were revived on this and the following day, after a lapse of thirty-five years.—*Ibid*.

May 13.—About twelve o'clock at night, an explosion took place at Killingworth West Moor pit, which did considerable damage to the shaft. One boy was so severely burnt that he died in a day or two after. Had the misfortune happened two hours later, the loss of life would have been very considerable as the men would then have been in the mine.—*Ibid*.

May 17.—Died, at Hexham, aged 88, Mr. Michael Bell, an old-established glove manufacturer, and a substantial “statesman.” Being lame from his infancy, he was precluded from taking part in those recreations generally indulged in by people of his rank. His spirits, however, were good, and his natural vivacity, without

the aid of literary acquirements, rendered him an interesting companion, and his house the frequent resort both of town and country gentlemen. His habits were uniformly temperate, and his frugality, which arose less from parsimony than a regard to health, occasioned his fortune (mainly acquired in agriculture) to augment rapidly. He was very accommodating to those whose integrity he had proved. He generally gave his name and donation to public charities, and sometimes made others the almoners of his honesty.—*J. R. in Tyne Mercury.*

1829 (May 22).—The steam-saw mill at Monkwearmouth-shore, the property of Messrs. Storey and Co., was almost entirely destroyed by fire. It was supposed to have been the work of incendiaries. Two of the workmen were taken up on suspicion.—*Local Papers.*

The same day "An act for making and maintaining a railway or tramroad from the town of Newcastle upon Tyne, in the county of Newcastle upon Tyne, to the city of Carlisle, in the county of Cumberland, with a branch thereout," received the royal assent.—*Ibid.*

May 26.—Between two and three o'clock on the morning, an alarming and destructive fire broke out in a steam flour mill, situated at the foot of Pandon bank, near the Stockbridge, Newcastle, occupied by Mr. Joseph Hopper. So rapid was the progress of the conflagration, that within an hour from its discovery, the roof and part of the walls fell in, exhibiting the interior of the building in one common blaze. The machinery was either totally destroyed, or rendered unfit for further use, and the quantity of corn, flour, &c., destroyed, was very great. As the wind was high, the fire threatened destruction to all around, and one of the sheds of Messrs. Shadforth and Todd, were insured, but the stock, &c., of Mr. Hopper, valued at near £1,000 was only insured to the amount of about one-half.—*Ibid.*

May 26.—In the afternoon an alarming fire occurred at the farmhouse at High Warden, near Hexham, but happily it was got under before much damage was done to the house. A blacksmith's shop (from which the fire originated) and a small cottage adjoining were totally consumed. Great praise was due to the firemen of Hexham, who hastened with the engine in time to stop the ravages of the flames.—*Ibid.*

May 26.—The name of the street in Newcastle, called "the Flesh Market," and, after the building of the "New Butchers' Market," "the Old Flesh market," was changed by the corporation to that of "the Cloth Market."—*Ibid.*

May 31.—A very melancholy occurrence took place at Scremerston, near Berwick. Mr. George Carr, of Berwick, and Mr. William Carr,

of Ford, with their sisters, Miss Eliza and Miss Mary Carr, having been on a visit to their brother-in-law, major Johnson, of Scremerston, accompanied by Miss Jane Donkin (youngest daughter of the late Joshua Donkin, esq., of North Shields), being about to return to Berwick from Scremerston, situated close to the sea, about three miles south from Berwick, procured a stout boat with two able men, one of whom was well accustomed to the sea. The tide being low, they had some difficulty in getting out of the creek, and when they had just cleared the outermost rock, a more than usually heavy wave upset the boat. One of the boatmen, who was a good swimmer, twice gained the rock with Miss Carr, but they were both times washed off and she was drowned. Miss Donkin disappeared at the moment off the accident, but Miss Mary Carr and her two brothers, and the two boatmen ultimately succeeded in gaining a firm footing on a low ledge of the rock, which in some degree protected them from the force of the sea, although every wave dashed over them. Though within 150 yards of safety, the deep water being filled with tangle or sea weed, 13 or 14 feet long, prevented any of the people who were soon assembled from the Spital, and the neighbourhood, from venturing to swim to the rock with any prospect of doing good. The boatman, however, with great difficulty, swam to an adjoining rock for the purpose of taking off a rope, in which he succeeded, but it was found much too short to be of use. In another attempt he was with much difficulty saved from drowning. A man on horseback was instantly dispatched to Spital, and two boats were immediately shoved off, and one of them succeeded in rescuing Miss Mary Carr, her two brothers, and the remaining boatman from a watery grave, after having been exposed to the violence of every wave for nearly an hour. Medical assistance being at hand, every attention was paid to the survivors, who all recovered, although much doubt was for some time entertained as to the recovery of the young lady. The body of Miss Donkin was found the same evening floating at sea, but the body of Miss Eliza Carr was not found until June 4th, when it was discovered amongst the tangle or sea weed near the place where the accident happened. Miss Donkin was about 20 years of age, and Miss Carr 25 years of age. To add to the anguish of the moment Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were spectators of the heart-rending scene from the beach.—*Local Papers.*

1829 (May.)—Three sets of grappling irons were purchased by subscriptions of one shilling each, and placed for the use of the public at the Watch-house, Bridge-end, the Glass works, west end of Pipewell-gate, and at Mr. A. M'Loud's yard, foot of Hillgate, Gateshead.—*Gateshead Intel.*

1829 (May.)—This month, on pulling down an old house on the Quayside, Newcastle, a fine gothic window was discovered in the east side of what is supposed to be the chapel of St. John of Jerusalem. This building, which is of stone, with buttresses on the west side in Grindon chare, is used as a corn loft; the crypt is used as a warehouse. Human bones have been dug up about it. There was anciently in the town's hutch a writing, indorsed "The agreement made betwixt the Prior of St. John, and the towne of Newcastle, touching a water gate." There is now no longer any doubt that this was the chapel of that order, and that the gate alluded to was a contiguous gate in the town wall, which extended along the Quay. There was also a chapel below the Ouseburn, in the parish of All Saints, dedicated to St. Lawrence, and founded by one of the Percies, which is said to have been dependent on the priory of St. John of Jerusalem. This chapel and its possessions were granted in 1594 to the corporation of Newcastle. The remains of St. Lawrence's chapel form part of the glass house belonging to Messrs. Robert Todd and Co.—*Local Rec.*, &c.



ST. JOHN'S CHAPEL, EAST SIDE (1829).

CHAPTER II.



THE royal assent was given on the 1st of June, 1829, to "An act for establishing a ferry across the river Tyne, between North Shields in the county of Northumberland, and South Shields, in the county of Durham, and for opening and making proper roads, avenues, ways and passages to communicate therewith." The roads and gangways being completed the ferry was opened by two large steam boats in

July 1830. Previous to this time, many lives had been lost in consequence of the upsetting of the small sculler boats. A suspension bridge across the river Tyne, between North Shields and South Shields, had been projected.—*Local Papers.*

The same day the Clarence railway bill received the royal assent.—*Ibid.*

The royal assent was given to "An Act for building a bridge over the river Wansbeck, at the town of Morpeth, in the county of Northumberland." In sinking for the foundations of the new bridge, several foreign coins, especially of France, and belonging to the time of the civil wars in England in the seventeenth century, were found considerably below the bed of the river, into which they were probably thrown in some struggle between the Scotch and Royal armies. One plack, also of Charles the first, some large brass needles, and immense quantities of pins, oxidized into solid masses, as well as pieces of swords, and other implements, were also found at the same time and place.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

June 8.—Died, at Hexham, Mr. Joseph Dawson, aged 101 years. He went about till within a short period of his death.—*Local Papers.*

1829 (June 9).—The foundation stone of an intended bridge over the river Tees, at Whorlton, was laid by Miss Headlam, daughter of the venerable the archdeacon of Richmondshire. The Barnardcastle subscription band attended on the occasion. This building was entirely carried away by a flood on the 13th of October, 1829.—*Local Papers*.

The same day a small neat Methodist chapel was opened at Aycliffe, near Darlington.—*Ibid*.

June 14.—About twelve o'clock, three boys who had bathed opposite to the last breakwater, next to Tynemouth, on the Low Light shore, North Shields, and had just got on their clothes again, heard a crackling noise above their heads. Two of them went to one side, the third unfortunately ran forward into the sea, but was overtaken by a large mass of clay which fell from the top of the bank and buried him under it. Two hours elapsed before he was dug out, when he was quite dead and his body dreadfully mangled. A man who was swimming in front of the spot had a narrow escape, as part of the mass of clay fell within three or four yards of him.—*Ibid*.

June 16.—A young man named William Taylor, apprentice to Mr. John Forsyth, of Durham, slater, having been sent to assist in making certain repairs in the roof of the cathedral, fell from a height of 78 feet upon the flags, in the chapel of the Nine Altars, and wonderful to relate, received only trifling injury.—*Ibid*.

June 17.—During a thunder storm that passed over Newcastle, a new unoccupied house at the Westgate, belonging to Mr. Burnup, was struck by the lightning, and a part of the roof fronting the turnpike, and one of the chimneys were thrown down. The whole of the floors in the house were also injured, and other damage done. Such was the force of the electric fluid that the slates were carried aloft; happily no person was injured.—*Ibid*.

June 18.—Died, at Easington-lane, in the county of Durham, Rosetta Coats, aged 101 years.—*Ibid*.

June 25.—A new Catholic chapel in Berwick was opened. The rev. Mr. Birdsall, pastor of the congregation, assisted by the rev. Mr. Gillow, of North Shields, performed the service. The musical department was most efficiently sustained by several professional vocalists from Newcastle. Mrs. Hammond presiding at the organ. The public were admitted by ticket, at 5s. each.—*Ibid*.

June 25.—Sunderland was visited by a very heavy thunder storm, the peals were tremendously loud, and the lightning remarkably frequent and vivid. The storm visited Chester-le-street, where a hay stack, the property of the owners of Chester brewery, was struck by the electric fluid, which entered at the roof and passed through the stack to the ground, setting it on fire. The flames were

speedily extinguished, when it was found that a hole about three inches in diameter, extended from the top to the bottom of the stack. A man who had just crossed the river Wear, near Cocken, was knocked down by the lightning the same day, but he fortunately received no material injury. At Hurworth-upon-Tees, the electric fluid descended upon the house occupied by Mr. Charles Gascoigne, grocer, splitting the shop door, and knocking down his infant child who was near the same. The servant, who, at the time, was engaged up stairs in making a bed, was thrown on the floor, taken up insensible, and completely blackened by the action of the lightning. Medical aid was promptly obtained, and, after two hours of unwearied perseverance on the part of Mr. Walker, surgeon, of Hurworth, she was restored to life. Three houses at Lay Gate, near South Shields, were also struck by the lightning; one of them inhabited by Mr. Gledstone, sustained considerable damage, and Mrs. G. was thrown down and much burnt, from the effects of which she continued some time dangerously ill.—*Local Papers*.

1829 (June 25).—An explosion of inflammable air took place in the Dorothea pit, Newbottle colliery, the property of lord Durham, whereby Robert Gardner lost his life. One other man was in the mine at the time the accident happened, who escaped with very little injury. After the first alarm had subsided, Mr. John Harrison, the head resident viewer for the colliery, accompanied by five or six assistants, descended the shaft in order to search for Gardner; but when they had proceeded some distance into the workings, another explosion occurred. Mr. H. had his head cut in several places, and his hands were severely burnt, but the rest of the men were very little injured. No particular account can be given of the cause which led to this unfortunate accident, as the party with whom it originated paid the forfeit of his life. Gardner's body, it was thought probable might never be found, as during the first twenty-four hours, explosions took place every one or two hours, which convinced the most scientific viewers in the neighbourhood, that the mine was on fire, and in consequence the pit was closed up so as to exclude the air. It was also found necessary to cease working another pit called the Margaret, which communicated with the Dorothea.—*Ibid*.

June 29.—The foundation stone of a bridge of one arch, over a dangerous ford in the river Darwent, between Greenhead and Edmond-byers, was laid by Nicholas Burnett, esq., of Black Hedley, to whom the residents in the more immediate neighbourhood, as well as the public generally, were much indebted for accomplishing by his praiseworthy exertions so desirable an improvement.—*Ibid*.

Same day, a little before twelve o'clock at night, flames were ob-

served to issue from the work shop of Mr. Swanson, glass cutter, Hillgate, Gateshead. By strenuous exertions, and a fortunate access to water, the fire was speedily got under, otherwise the consequences might have been truly awful, as the premises were immediately adjoining the oil mill of Messrs. John Raine and company, some machinery belonging to which passed through the wall into the place where the fire originated, and produced the motion by which the glass-cutters worked their lathes. The fire was supposed to be the work of incendiaries, as no fire had been used by Mr. Swanson for upwards of two months before, and all was safe when he left that evening. The loss of glass, &c., was very considerable.—*Local Papers*.

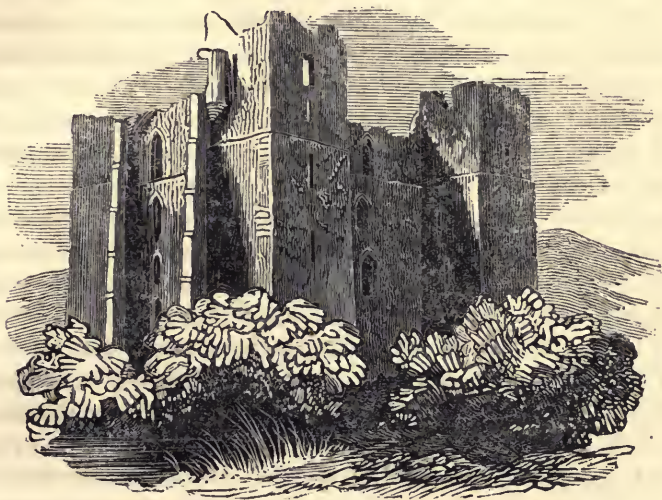
1829 (June).—In the course of some operations carrying on in the grounds at Tynemouth castle, some curious remains of antiquity were found. In digging a tank near the old guard house, between the governor's house and the store house, a brown group of grotesque figures were found, of very great antiquity. And in making a drain under the foot-path, on the south side of the abbey yard, and near to the wall, a number of paving bricks and some coins were found. The bricks were of different colours, as brown, yellow, &c., and mostly of a square form, though some were that of a rectangular triangle. One of the coins was a modern one of Charles I., in copper.—*Ibid*.

July 2.—At a meeting of the mayor, aldermen, and common council of Newcastle, it was resolved unanimously to subscribe twenty pounds towards the Eldon Testimonial (that being the highest sum allowed by the advertisement) "to manifest the deep and grateful sense they entertain of the eminent services of John earl of Eldon, throughout a long and laborious public life." A committee of noblemen and gentlemen had been nominated to conduct a subscription for the purpose of presenting to lord Eldon, a lasting testimonial for his eminent services during his long and laborious public life. It was understood to be the wish of his lordship that the money subscribed for the Eldon Testimonial should be applied to the establishment of six scholarships in University college, Oxford, to be called "The Eldon Scholarships."—*Ibid*.

July 7.—Died, in the poorhouse at Sunderland, Thomas Thompson, aged 102 years.—*Ibid*.

July 23.—As the brewer of Mr. William Robson, Bee Hive, Head of the Side, opposite the west end of St. Nicholas' church, Newcastle, was standing at the door of the brew-house, the ground suddenly gave way beneath him, and but for the timely aid of his assistant, he would have been precipitated into a well thirty-two feet in depth, of the previous existence of which no person had the least knowledge.—*Ibid*.

1829 (July 24).—The neighbourhood of Haydon-bridge was visited by a tremendous storm. The lightning was awfully vivid, and continued without intermission from three o'clock in the afternoon till near eight o'clock. The rain descended in torrents for upwards of three hours. Langley-burn rose to a fearful height. The new bridges at Langley castle and Gee's Wood, (near Haydon-bridge) over which the



LANGLEY CASTLE (1835).

new Alston road passed, were entirely swept away, with the new wall or quay erected at a great expence, for widening the road in the Esp Hill Cleugh. The bridge at the east end of Haydon-bridge was covered with water to a great depth, the battlements were thrown down, and the turnpike road on the west side much damaged. The post-office and several cottages near it were completely inundated, and the poor inhabitants sustained a severe loss. The lightning struck the wooden ventilator on the top of the highest chimney of Langley-smelt mills, and tore off several of the planks. At Hexham the storm continued from about five o'clock until a late hour at night. The rain fell in torrents, and the lightning and thunder were awful and terrific. Much injury was done by the rivulet called Cockshaw-burn, swelling to a tremendous height, and completely inundating the houses within its vicinity, carrying away a bridge and doing much other damage. The same night the rain fell in torrents at Newcastle, accompanied with lightning, and the next morning the river Tyne presented an awful appearance; quantities of hay and wood were brought down by the fresh, and so powerful was the current, that all the steam boats then lying on the south side of the Tyne, and several ships broke from

their moorings, and were with difficulty secured again. The storm was very general throughout the county of Northumberland.—*Local Papers.*

1829 (July 26).—His royal highness the duke de Chartres and suite arrived at Newcastle on the evening of this day (Sunday) from Edinburgh. His royal highness descended one of the coal pits in the neighbourhood, the interior of which he examined with much attention. The steam engine, being one of 220 horses' power, particularly arrested the attention of his royal highness. At Sunderland he minutely examined the bridge, the pier, &c.—*Ibid.*

July 30.—The gates leading from the street of Tynemouth, to the Prior's Haven, were for some days closed against the public, in consequence of the owners of the common bathing machines and boats having declined to pay the acknowledgment, or rent, demanded by the board of ordnance. The passage was re-opened on their agreeing to the terms demanded, which were ten shillings and sixpence.—*Ibid.*

July 31.—Died, at Abingdon, sir John Hullock, knt., one of the barons of the exchequer. This distinguished lawyer was born in the year 1764, at Barnardcastle, in the county of Durham. In early life Mr. Hullock entered of Gray's inn, and was in due time called to the bar, at which he practised upwards of twenty years, with the reputation of being one of the soundest lawyers of Westminster hall. He does not appear to have had much practice, until after the publication of his work on the Law of Costs; this brought him into notice, and he rose by degrees to fill the second place amongst the counsel on the northern circuit. In the year 1816, Mr. Hullock was promoted to the rank of sergeant at law. On the resignation of Mr. Baron Wood in the year 1823, Mr. Sergeant Hullock was promoted to the office of one of the barons of the court of exchequer. Mr. Baron Hullock had arrived at Abingdon, as one of the judges of assize on the Oxford circuit, on Saturday 25th of July. On the following day he attended divine service at St. Helen's church in that town, in apparently good health; but in the course of that night he experienced a violent attack of cholera morbus, of which he died. Mr. Hullock was recorder of Berwick, which he resigned, and was succeeded in the year 1810 by Christopher Cookson, esq., who was also recorder of Newcastle. Mr. Hullock published "The Law of Costs," 8vo. 1792; also "The Law of Costs in Civil Actions and Proceedings," 8vo. 1796; and another edition in 2 vols. 1810. His lordship had been many years married. His lady survived him.—*Ibid.*

August 2.—A fire broke out in the premises occupied by Mrs. Margaret Bulmer, pawnbroker, Bank top, South Shields. The flames had reached the top of the house before they were discovered,

and burnt with alarming fury, but the speedy arrival of the North and South Shields fire engines, and a good supply of water kept the fire from extending to the adjoining premises. The whole of the upper parts of the house which were filled with feather beds and other pledged articles were entirely consumed. The stock and furniture were insured for £1,400, but the premises were not insured.—*Local Papers.*

1829 (Aug. 9).—The church of Belford, after having undergone considerable enlargement, was re-opened for divine service.—*Ibid.*

August 10.—The foundation stone of a bridge over the river Wansbeck, at High Ford, near Mitford, was laid by B. Mitford, esq., lord of the manor, in the presence of a large concourse of spectators, with due form, amidst music, the firing of cannon and the ringing of bells. Mr. Moor, of High house, as representative of William Ord, esq., lord of the manor on the opposite side of the river, assisted in the ceremony. The High Ford bridge was built by subscription, and under the inspection of the county surveyors. It was finished in 1830, and is a handsome structure of two arches.—*Ibid.*

August 19.—A meeting was held in the lecture-room of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle, for the purpose of establishing a society to be called “The Natural History Society of Northumberland, Durham, and Newcastle upon Tyne.” The meeting was attended by sir John Trevelyan, bart., Walter Calverley Trevelyan, William Orde, Prideaux John Selby, William Burrell, Dixon Dixon, George Townsend Fox, and John Adamson, esqrs.; rev William Turner, Mr. Emerson Charnley, Mr. Winch, Mr. William Hewitson, &c., &c. The chair was taken by Dixon Dixon, esq., and Mr. Adamson announced that he had received a letter from the venerable archdeacon Singleton, stating that his grace the duke of Northumberland would be very happy to join the gentlemen of the country in so laudable a purpose. Mr. G. T. Fox made a similar announcement on the part of the lord bishop of Durham, and intimated his lordship’s intention to have been present at the meeting, had he not been prevented by attending on his majesty’s justices of assize. His lordship would give directions to his several agents to furnish specimens in their various departments. The establishment of the society was then proposed by sir John Trevelyan, bart., and seconded by P. J. Selby, esq. It was resolved to solicit his grace the duke of Northumberland to become the patron of the society, and the lord bishop of Durham to accept the office of president. The society to have eight vice-presidents and a committee, and its meetings to take place on the first Tuesday of each month. William Orde, esq., proposed the thanks of the meeting to Dixon Dixon, esq., for his conduct in

the chair, and begged to express his great satisfaction at the establishment of the society, and his conviction of the beneficial effects which would result from it to the country. The thanks of the meeting were also given to John Adamson, esq., for his valuable exertions in the formation of the society. The first meeting of the society took place on the 15th of September, when an excellent introductory address was delivered by the rev. William Turner.—*Local Papers.*

1829 (Aug. 20).—As the marquis and marchioness of Londonderry were driving, in a curriele, two high-spirited horses down a hill close to Wynyard park, the pole of the carriage broke, and the curriele fell, when the horses feeling the splinter-bars on their hind legs, began to kick out most furiously against the splash board of the carriage, which pressed on their hind quarters. The carriage was dragged some distance in this way. The marquis, by singular good fortune, guided and pulled the near horse into a ditch, when he fell on his side under the carriage, and broke his hind leg. The off horse became so entangled, that he also fell while kicking out. Lady Londonderry sat upon the seat of the curriele, during the frightful kicking of the horses, and when the near horse fell, she leapt out into the ditch. Her husband, seeing her ladyship safe, sprung out on the other side. The noble pair suffered several severe bruises. The horse was shot on the spot.—*Ibid.*

August 22.—Mr. Justice Bayley and Mr. Justice Littledale, judges of assize left Newcastle for Carlisle on the morning of the above day (Saturday) and, in consequence, no assize Sunday was observed at Newcastle, a circumstance which had not occurred there, it was believed, since the year 1745, when the ceremony was first observed.—*Ibid.*

August 27.—Died, in Carpenter street, South Shields, Ann Musgrave, spinster, aged 100 years.—*Ibid.*

August 30.—A large whale was seen floating near the Farn islands, on the coast of Northumberland. Some boats sailed out and towed it ashore. It measured in length 58 feet, and was sold for £45. When found it was quite dead.—*Ibid.*

August 31.—At a meeting of the coal trade at Newcastle, it was determined to re-establish the vends, or regulations for apportioning each colliery's sale on the rivers Tyne and Wear, and they commenced accordingly on the following morning.—*Ibid.*

September 15.—There was launched from the building-yard of Messrs. Straker and Co., at South Shields, a very beautiful new ship called the *Isabella*, of nearly 300 tons. There was a most numerous and respectable assemblage of persons from Newcastle, North Shields, and the neighbourhood, not only for the purpose of seeing the launch,

but to witness the operation and power of Mr. George Straker's newly invented patent windlass, which not only equalled, but surpassed the most sanguine expectations that had been formed of it. Its relative powers were tried by putting six men at the windlass to heave an anchor of 13 cwt. in the ordinary way, which they performed with some difficulty. It was then lowered down and hove up again with the improved windlass by the power of one man and a boy with comparative ease. The anchor was again lowered down and an additional weight was suspended, which was equal to 26 cwt., when eight men and boys were again put to the windlass in the ordinary way, who were not able to get a single square; two of the men were then put to the improved purchase, and immediately hove up the weight of two anchors without difficulty.—*Local Papers.*



1829 (Sep. 19).—A whale was thrown on shore about two miles north of Berwick. When viewed from the bank under which it lay, the resemblance to a boat, with the keel upwards, was so exact and striking that the comparison was made by every one of its numerous visitors; and sir David Wilkie, the celebrated painter, who was one of them, is said to have remarked that a boat-builder might read to himself a good lesson from this mighty monster of the deep. It lay upon its back with its belly upwards, was of an oval shape, swollen and thickest near the head, whence it tapered gradually to the tail. The extreme length was between 35 and 36 feet; the greatest circumference 24 feet. The back, so far as could be seen, was black, smooth, and somewhat glossy. The blow-holes were separate, about 6 feet from the snout, and each was furnished with a valve, which, in texture and shape, was compared to a moistened bladder. The head was obtusely pointed; the upper jaw considerably smaller and more acute than the under. The gape was ten feet in length, and the mouth was filled with the whalebone, arranged in a beautifully pectinate manner. The eyes, situated above the angles of the gape, protruded slightly, and though small, compared to the bulk of the body, were still greatly larger than those of an ox or horse. The

belly was furrowed with great regularity; the furrows, deep and broad, commenced just below the chin, and were continued till within 14 feet of the tail, when they terminated abruptly, the posterior portion being even and smooth. The whole under surface was marbled with black and white, the latter colour being the most predominant. The fins were one on each side, oblong, flattened, white; nine feet in length, and 30 inches in breadth, and were articulated to the body about 11 or 12 feet from the anterior end. The tail was semi-lunar, and nine feet in breadth. On opening the stomach six cormorants were found in it, and another in the throat, so that it was presumed this whale had been choked in the attempt to swallow the bird. It was claimed by the corporation of Berwick, and sold for £17. 2s. 6d.—*Nat. Hist. Soc. Trans.*

1829 (Sep. 29).—Robert Hopper Williamson, esq., resigned the recordership of Newcastle, which he had held with the highest honour for a period of thirty years. On the 5th of October, being the first Monday after the feast of St. Michael the archangel, at the election of the mayor and other officers of the corporation of Newcastle, Christopher Cookson, esq., barrister at law, was elected recorder of that town.—*Local Papers.*

October 1.—At a meeting of the trustees of the Ponteland road, Matthew Bell, esq., M. P., in the chair, the report of Mr. Thomas Sopwith, of Newcastle, surveyor, on a proposed new line of road from Newcastle to Otterburn, was resolved to be acted upon in preference to the line surveyed under the direction of Mr. M'Adam. An act was afterwards obtained, and the road made under the direction of Mr. Luke Pearson, of Newcastle.—*Ibid.*

October 10.—A petrified or fossil tree was found in the stone quarry at Wideopen, near Gosforth, about five miles from Newcastle, at the depth of 43 feet from the surface, and 6 feet from the bed of the stone. It was 72 feet in length, and 4 feet 9 inches in girth at the lower extremity. Its horizontal exceeded its vertical diameter in the proportion of 17 to 10. Its position was nearly horizontal, the knots, &c., retained their original appearance; it was partially hollow and crystalized; its longitudinal separations were precisely those of wood rent by powerful external pressure. The fossil stem of a tree was found at the depth of 48 fathoms, above the coal in the workings of Killingworth colliery, near Newcastle, in September 1830. A representation of this tree is given in the first volume of the "Transactions of the Natural History Society of Northumberland, Durham, and Newcastle." Another fossil tree was found in a quarry at Heworth, near Newcastle. Other fine specimens of similar fossil remains have been found in the quarries on the sea coast at Cresswell,

in Northumberland; one of which is preserved in the conservatory at Cresswell House. Its dimensions are, viz:—5 feet in height, girth at the top 4 feet 10 inches, at the middle 5 feet 10½ inches, near the bottom 5 feet 7 inches, and at the bottom 7 feet 6 inches. This was drawn and etched by Mr. Thomas Sopwith, of Newcastle, for the rev. John Hodgson's history of Northumberland.—*Local Rec.*, &c.

1829 (Oct. 13).—During the night, there was a strong gale accompanied by heavy and long-continued rain. The river Tees was swollen to a height not exceeded within the memory of the oldest inhabitant of Barnardcastle. The river Tyne was alarmingly swollen on the following morning, overflowing all the low lands in its vicinity and penetrating the cellars on the Quayside, and in the Close, Newcastle, occasioning considerable loss of goods and liquors. A great many sheep and a few cattle were on the island called the King's-meadows, in the river Tyne, at the commencement, on the Tuesday evening, but were fortunately got off during the night and the next morning. About four o'clock in the the afternoon of Wednesday, a valuable horse belonging to Messrs. Robert and William Wheatley, cart-owners, Newcastle, was lost by falling over the Quay, opposite to the custom-house, while attached to a cart. The tide at this time had extended considerably over the Quay, and to keep some iron (in progress of delivery) dry, the cart had been backed close to the vessel, which, either from the force of the current, or the pressure of the cart, (containing 22 bundles of hoop iron) sheered off from the Quay, and the cart and the horse were precipitated into the river between the Quay and the vessel, where the poor animal struggled about ten minutes, during which time every effort was made for his release, but without success. The whole of the scaffolding put up for the landing of stones to be used in erecting the south abutments of Scotswood bridge, over the Tyne, was carried away, and the timber dispersed over the adjacent fields. Some pieces reached Swallwell, Dunston, &c., and they even got as far inland as the turnpike road on that side of the water. The communicating gangway from the north pier to the piling scaffold, was also entirely driven down, and the scaffolding itself was so materially damaged and shifted from its level, that the whole was obliged to be taken down. The men employed in the erection of the bridge, had some very narrow escapes whilst engaged in picking up the floating rafters. The flood made a breach in every part of the line of road reaching from the south pier to Blaydon, being all embankment and not finished, which in that early state of the work was very considerable. Several sheep and one or two asses, were said to have floated down the Darwent, a tributary stream running through Swallwell, but which on this occasion, rushed down

with astonishing strength and rapidity. By this alarming visitation, Mr. Thomas Potts, a farmer, of Newburn, lost a bay mare and a fine young horse. He was attempting to ford the river with a cart, a short way from his own residence, but the rush of water increasing at the moment, the animals were carried off their feet, and Mr. Potts thrown into the stream; his progress was fortunately stopped by the whirling of an eddy round a quay near his farm, from whence his barnman succeeded in reseuing him, though in a very exhausted condition. Some cattle belonging to Mr. Ramsay, on Darwent-haugh, were in great danger during the Wednesday—a danger that became no less imminent to the men employed to turn them off, before they could be brought to swim for that purpose. A keel that was taking the turn of the river, between Stella and Lemington, was driven with great force on the eastern bank; and most of the houses on both sides of the river, had their lower apartments flooded, and part of their furniture either damaged or destroyed: a desk-bed was picked up by a keelman named Curry, at Blaydon. An old woman was said to have been drowned at Wylam. The low grounds near Corbridge were completely inundated, and at Hexham, the whole of



CORBRIDGE.

Tyne green was overflown, and the lower rooms of many houses were under water. There had not been so high a flood in the Tyne since December 30th, 1815, though its effects were comparatively trifling. As stated before, the river Tees rose to an unusual height; at Barnardecastle it flooded many of the houses, particularly at Bridgegate, where, during the night, it swept away furniture, clothes, &c., from the inhabitants. The new bridge, building across the river at Whorlton, was intirely carried away, to the ruin of the unfortunate builders. But deplorable as the effects of the storm were inland, they were trivial as compared with the devastation on the coast. During the Tuesday, above one hundred and fifty light colliers had arrived safely

in Sunderland harbour, and several sailed again laden, with a fine north west wind and a smooth sea; but during the night, the wind having shifted to the north east, a most tremendous sea came on, and morning presented one of the most awful spectacles witnessed there for many years. Day-light discovered four vessels lying on their broad-sides on the south rocks, and by three o'clock p. m., there were fifteen vessels on shore and wrecked between the south pier and Hendon. About four o'clock, the Eleanor, of Monkwearmouth, which had sailed the day before, for the northward, in putting back, sunk off the mouth of the harbour, and all on board perished, consisting of a father and son, named Hills, and two seamen, in sight of some thousands of spectators, unable to render the slightest assistance. The brig Thomas Fenwick, of Shields, sunk in deep water off Sunderland, after having been abandoned by her crew. The William and Clio, of Sunderland, with four other vessels, went on shore at Stranton sands, near Hartlepool. The sea was heavier at Blyth, than had been known for upwards of twenty years; it did but partial damage however, although at one time, the houses at Cowpen quay were nearly inundated by the dyke giving way. A small vessel laden with corn, &c., struck on the rocks near Marsden, between Shields and Sunderland; she went to pieces, and all on board consisting of eight persons perished. They were seen to suffer by some pilots, who were not able to render them any assistance.—*Local Papers*.

1829 (Oct. 14).—The new church in St. John street, Bishopwearmouth, was consecrated by the lord bishop of Durham. with the usual formalities. Immediately after the above ceremony, the bishop consecrated a plot of ground that had been added to the burial ground adjoining the national school, Bishopwearmouth.—*Ibid*.

October 16.—The commissioners for enquiring concerning public charities arrived in Newcastle, and commenced their labours at the Queen's head inn, in Pilgrim-street. Invitation by public advertisement had been previously given to all persons who could communicate information on the subjects of their enquiry.—*Ibid*.

October 16.—About four o'clock on the morning, an alarming fire broke out in the stack-yard of Low Angerton east farm, near Morpeth, occupied by Mr. William Lumsden, which in a short time completely destroyed ten stacks of wheat, eight of oats, one of barley, and three of hay, the whole crop of the farm! This calamity was supposed to have originated in a stack of old-land hay which appeared to be much heated, and was observed smoking very much on the preceding day. The fire was discovered by people at a distance, who hastened to the spot and found the family asleep. Within an hour every stack in the yard was in flames, together with the horse-house

and outside works of the thrashing machine, and the dreadful appearance of the fire at this time threatened the destruction of the whole of the premises; but by the great exertions of the neighbours, the dwelling-house and other buildings were preserved. No part of the property was insured. The alarm created in the neighbourhood was very great, and people came to assist from all quarters, many of whom continued carrying water and otherwise assisting, from five o'clock on the morning till eight o'clock at night.—*Local Paper*.

1829 (Oct. 17).—The foundation of the Music-hall in Blackett-street, Newcastle, was laid. It is the property of Mr. Richard Grainger. Since the erection of Grey-street and the new Music-hall in Nelson-street, the room (which was much curtailed) has been used as an auction mart.—*Ibid*, &c.

October 18.—This day (Sunday) the first interment took place at the "WESTGATE HILL GENERAL CEMETERY." The grave which was about ten feet deep, was for the mortal remains of Elizabeth, wife of Mr. Joseph Angus, who died on the 13th at Forth-terrace, in Newcastle. The rev. Richard Pengilly, (minister of the Baptist chapel, on the Tuthill-stairs, Newcastle,) addressed the numerous spectators on the solemn occasion of their having been brought together, and also on the necessity of purchasing this piece of ground as a public depository for the dead. On the conclusion of Mr. Pengilly's address, the rev. G. Sample closed the service with prayer. The ground which had been purchased of John Hodgson, esq., of Elswick, upon very liberal terms, consists of three acres of land at the Westgate, being the angle formed by the Carlisle road, and Elswick-lane. This cemetery is laid out in an ornamental manner after the models of the celebrated Cimetière du pere la Chaise, at Paris, and the lately formed cemeteries at Manchester and Liverpool. In this place of interment, there are no restrictions as to rites and ceremonies, these are left entirely to the pleasure of surviving friends.—*Local Rec*.

October 19.—The new chapel at Ferryhill, in the county of Durham, was consecrated by the lord bishop of Durham, and called St. Luke's chapel. It is a neat plain structure, from a design by Bonomi.—*Ibid*.

October 24.—The elegant new church at the Barras-bridge, Newcastle, having been brought to its height, the last corner stone was laid by John Clayton, esq., accompanied by Mr. John Dobson, the architect, and some friends, on which occasion the bells of St. Andrew's church, rang several merry peals. The foundation stone of this chapel was laid on the 27th of May, 1828, without a public ceremony.—*Ibid*.

October 25 and 26.—The skeleton remains of two human bodies

were found in a part of the premises in Low Friar street, Newcastle, occupied by Mr. Jonathan Priestman, tanner, by the workmen employed in forming recesses for some new pits in the back part of his tan-yard. They were imbedded in a stratum of clay, which had the usual loamy covering, about four and a half feet from the surface. When discovered all their parts were connected, but on exposure to the air a considerable portion crumbled and fell to dust. Not a vestige of any thing like a coffin was found. Vulgar opinion immediately declared them to be the bodies of murdered persons, but this is extremely unlikely, for they both lay east and west in the manner of the present mode of interment, and in the same straight position. The contiguity of this place to the monastery of the Black-friars, confirms the supposition that it had been a burial place in monastic times.—*Local Papers*.

1829 (Oct. 27).—The Stockton and Darlington railway company, opened the new branch of the railroad, from Darlington to Croft. The procession was truly interesting.—*Ibid*.

November 4.—A fire broke out at the Red-house farm, near Monkwearmouth, occupied by Mr. Rennison, which in a short time consumed the whole of the outbuildings, and a great quantity of corn.—*Ibid*.

November 9.—The new road formed by the marquis of Londonderry, from Seaham harbour, was opened. It is nearly a mile and a half in length, and joins the Sunderland and Stockton turnpike road immediately opposite the Mill inn, near to Seaham-lodge. It affords an easy access to the new town and harbour.—*Ibid*.

November 18.—Died, at North Shields, Mrs. Ann Drybourgh, aged 100 years.—*Ibid*.

November 19.—A meeting of a number of the principal merchants, &c., of Newcastle, was held in the Turk's head inn, Geo. Shadforth, esq., mayor, in the chair, to consider of the necessary preliminary arrangements best calculated to promote the formation of an East India Association in that town. The meeting was addressed by Mr. Buckingham, at considerable length, who concluded by recommending that a requisition signed by the company present, should be presented to the mayor, requesting him to call a public meeting at his convenience, in order to consider the propriety of forming an association, which might report the sense of this part of the country on the important question of renewing the East India Company's charter, when it came to be agitated in the ensuing session of parliament. A requisition to that effect, on the motion of James Losh, esq., seconded by George Forster, esq., was then adopted and most respectably signed. The mayor appointed the meeting to be held in the Guildhall, on Tues-

day the first of December. A meeting took place accordingly, which was attended by a numerous body of the most respectable merchants of the town and neighbourhood, George Shadforth, esq., mayor, in the chair, when various resolutions were proposed and seconded, and an association was formed under the title of "The Newcastle East India Association.—*Local Papers.*

1829 (Nov. 21).—A meeting of the inhabitants of North and South Shields, was held at the George Tavern, North Shields, Robert Spence, esq., in the chair, when an association was formed to be called, "The Shields East India Association," for the purpose of opposing the renewal of the East India Company's charter.—*Ibid.*

November 22.—Died, at his house on the New-road, Newcastle, Mr. Thomas Coulthard, brewer, aged 50 years. He was unquestionably the heaviest man in the district, and his coffin was in all probability the largest ever seen in Newcastle. It was made in the workshop of Mr. Thomas Sopwith, and its stupendous dimensions excited great astonishment in the numerous persons who were attracted by curiosity to see it. It contained upwards of 100 square feet of oak, and in bulk amounted to about 40 cubic feet. The external dimensions were the more extraordinary, as not including space for any inner shell or leaden coffin, but barely for the body, they were as follows:—Length 6 feet 7½ inches, breadth at the head 2 feet 11 inches, ditto at the shoulders 3 feet 5 inches, ditto at the feet, 2 feet 8 inches, depth 2 feet 4½ inches. He was interred in the burial ground of St. Ann's chapel, on the 24th of November; an immense concourse of people assembled to witness the ceremony.—*Ibid.*

November 26.—A meeting of the principal gentry of Newcastle, and Northumberland, Durham, &c. was held in the Assembly-rooms, Newcastle, when it was determined to establish a club on the plan of the club houses in London, to be called "The Northern Counties Club."—*Ibid.*

December 2.—A public meeting, to form an East India Association, was held in the Assembly-rooms, Sunderland, in pursuance of a requisition to the magistrates, signed by sixty-five ship-owners and merchants of that town.—*Ibid.*

December 3.—At Willington colliery, near Newcastle, four men lost their lives by an explosion, accompanied by a rush of water from some old workings.—*Ibid.*

December 3.—A numerous and highly respectable meeting of the subscribers and friends to the "WESTGATE HILL CEMETERY," was held at the Crown and Thistle inn, Newcastle, James Losh, esq., in the chair. A report of the proceedings of the building committee was read by the secretary, the rev. R. Pengilly, by which it appeared that

sufficient progress had been made in the work to enable the trustees to open the ground as a place of interment. Mr. Bruce moved a resolution approving of the conduct of the building committee, which being seconded by Mr. Beaumont, was carried unanimously. Mr. John Fenwick, in moving the appointment of an additional trustee, took occasion to congratulate the meeting on Newcastle now possessing a cemetery, which was not only highly creditable to the town, but which would have a most humanizing effect on the population. He thought that the remainder of the purchase money of the ground should be immediately paid, that the place should be lighted with gas—it was admirably capable of this sort of defence, which he considered as being more secure and more to be relied on than the ample walls and formidable railing that already surrounded the ground, that the chapel and sexton's house should be erected, and that the land tax should be redeemed. He remarked that this was important, as many gentlemen had been induced to increase their shares with a view to their having the power to express an opinion of the fitness or unfitness of any candidate to represent the county of Northumberland in parliament, and it was desirable that the voters in right of this ground should have the stumbling block of the land schedule taken out of their way, whenever they should come to the poll. He thought that £1,000. more would fully accomplish all those purposes, and as many of the friends of the measure had objected to the trustees borrowing money, if any gentlemen would increase the number of their shares the money might at once be raised without resorting to that expedient. He concluded by urging on the gentlemen present to enlarge the number of the shares taken by them. £400. was subscribed in the room, to which a considerable sum was afterwards added.—*Local Papers.*



GATEWAY OF THE WESTGATE HILL CEMETERY.



THE clock dial on the north side of St. Nicholas' church, facing the wheat market, Newcastle, was, at five o'clock in the evening of December 5th, 1829, first lighted with gas. By a simple but ingenious piece of mechanism, a semi-transparent plate of glass, forming the dial, is illuminated at any given time. The wheel used for this purpose runs in the hour wheel of the clock, but having twice the number of teeth that the latter has, it by that means acquires the necessary revolution of once only in twenty-four hours; then, having as many pins attached to it (for their number is regulated at pleasure) as there are hours to elapse between the times of putting out and relighting the dial, they bear up a lever, as they revolve from hour to hour, which keeps the cock of the gas-pipe closed; until all of them getting past, and the point of the lever having no more pins to strike upon, it of course descends, turns the cock, and (a little gas being left ignited throughout the day, by means of a pin-hole bored through the stop cock for the purpose), there immediately becomes a full flame at any period previously calculated on. Mr. Paine, of London, is the patentee of this useful and interesting contrivance. It was executed at the expense of the corporation of Newcastle, on the public spirited conduct of which body it reflects considerable credit. The dial, is eight feet in diameter; the numerals are fifteen inches in length, and may be distinctly seen at a great distance.—*Local Papers.*

December 8.—During the night, as Ralph Haswell, engineman, was guarding the rope at Winter's-lane engine, on the Hetton Company's railway, he by some means slipped his foot, and came in contact with the drum on which the rope is wound, when the first turn of the rope passed over his right arm, and the next turn over his right foot. In this awful situation he had to remain a considerable time, till at length another workman came to his assistance and stopped the engine, but not before nearly 400 fathoms of rope were wound over his arm and legs! Fortunately the rope never passed over his head, or he must have been crushed to death. Upwards of an hour elapsed before he could be extricated, and what was astonishing he was not much hurt, excepting his right arm, which was a good deal crushed.—*Ibid.*

December 9.—Isaac Milburn, gamekeeper to sir John Trevelyan, bart., of Wallington, fell in with a flight of 23 wild swans, of which, by a discharge of his double barrellled gun, he killed six. Two others fell, but escaped under favour of darkness. The largest weighed 17lbs.—*Ibid.*

1829 (Dec. 19).—About nine o'clock at night, a pitman named Joseph Gardner, was found in the centre of a large water wheel attached to the mustard manufactory, in Pandon dean, Newcastle, in a very perilous situation. Mrs. Hedley, who resided on the premises, thinking she heard a noise in the mill, took a light and proceeded to the spot; on asking if any one was there, a faint voice replied, "Yes, I'm in the wheel." Assistance was immediately procured, and the poor fellow was dragged out with great difficulty, through the machinery, dripping with wet, and leaving his hat and one of his shoes in the dam, which were got out the next morning. His situation was truly dangerous; for had the wheel once turned round, which the weight of his body on either side would have effected, he must have fallen into the dam beneath, containing five or six feet depth of water, or had he remained much longer exposed to the wet and cold, it was likely he would have perished, as he was very much exhausted when found.—*Local Papers*.

December. 20.—Died, in the city of Durham, Elizabeth Maugham, aged 100 years.—*Ibid*.

Decem. 26.—An excellently finished and beautiful vessel called the "George Green," was launched from the dock-yard of Messrs. W. Smith and Co., of St. Peter's, North-shore, near Newcastle, intended for the East India trade, and principally for passengers, her interior being fitted up with unusual neatness and elegance. She was built in the frigate style, and for the convenience of her passengers, the ports, which were thirteen in number on each side, had each a patent light in the centre, which hauled up for the admission of air into the cabins and lower deck; she was also fitted with a double tier of windows in the stern and quarter galleries. Her extreme length was 135 feet, and admeasured 586 register tons. Some beautifully carved work on the stern, represented the armorial bearings of the gentleman whose name she bore; her cutwater was also surmounted by a bust of the same individual. She was the finest merchantman ever constructed in that port, and was considered by scientific men to equal any London-built vessel. The ceremony of naming having been performed by Frederick Green, esq., at four o'clock the vessel was launched in the most imposing style, amidst the loud cheers of the assembled spectators, and a salute of cannon. Notwithstanding the inclement season, numbers went from a considerable distance to witness the launch. This beautiful vessel was totally lost on the 30th of January, 1830, on Hasbro' sand, on her passage from the Tyne to London.—*Ibid*.

December.—Eight new bells arrived at Sunderland from London, for Sunderland church, two of them were a present from the rector, Dr. Wellesley. They were rung for the first time on New Year's eve,

by the Gateshead union society of change ringers. The bells were justly admired for their beautiful tone. The tenor bell weighed 14 cwt.—*Local Papers.*

PATENT SLIP-WAY AT JARROW, ON THE RIVER TYNE.



1829.—The patent slip-way, at Jarrow on the banks of the Tyne, erected by Messrs. Brown, was opened this year. The slip is capable of drawing up vessels of 500 tons burthen, and of containing three

ships at one time; and there is a sufficiency of water to enable ships to get on and off at neap tides.—*Mackenzie & Ross' Dur.*

1829.—The custom-house, Newcastle, which, previously, had been leased to government, was, this year, purchased by the lords of the treasury, and was ornamented with a handsome stone front. It also received considerable alterations in its interior in order to render it more eligible for the extent of its business.—*MS. Col.*

The chief part of the abbey church-yard, in Durham, on the north side, was levelled, and the rubbish which had accumulated near the walls removed. During the operation many ancient coffin lids of stone were found. One which covered the remains of a child in a stone coffin below, appeared to belong to the Norman period, and was curiously ornamented. It was at this time discovered that the effigy near the north door, said to represent a man who leapt from one of the towers for a purse of gold, and was killed by the fall, was in reality the effigy of a lady Lumley who had been buried below. Bishop Matthew's license authorized John lord Lumley to remove the bones of his male ancestors only, and it proves their place of sepulture to have been near the north door of the church, the very place in question.—*Local Rec.*

Primitive methodists chapel, Berwick upon Tweed, founded.—The register of births and baptisms extending from 1824 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

King street chapel (Independent), Morpeth, founded. The register of births and baptisms extending from 1829 to 1837.—*Ibid.*

Died, this year, Thomas Richard Beaumont, esq. He was born about the year 1758. Early in life he entered the army as cornet, and ultimately attained the rank of lieutenant colonel of the 21st light dragoons, which he had raised as a fencible corps amongst his northern tenantry, but which was transferred to the line about the year 1795. The circumstance attending this transfer caused great sensation in the north, and for a considerable time rendered Mr. Beaumont very unpopular. He married Diana, daughter of sir Thomas Wentworth Blackett, bart., of Bretton hall, Yorkshire, who, upon the death of her father in 1792, succeeded, by will, to the magnificent manor of Bretton park, the abbey of Hexham, and extensive property in entails, and lead mines in the counties of Northumberland and Durham. Colonel Beaumont represented the county of Northumberland in five successive parliaments. He was first elected on the death of sir William Middleton, in 1795; in 1796, 1802, 1806, 1807, and 1812; and retired in 1818 in favour of his son Thomas Wentworth Beaumont, esq. Colonel Beaumont died at Bretton hall after a protracted illness, on the 31st of July, and was

interred in the family vault there on the 11th of August. His kind and gentlemanly manners, joined to the most friendly disposition, had obtained for him the sincere esteem of a wide circle of acquaintances.—*Local Papers.*

1830 (January 15).—A large party of the magistrates of the county of Northumberland, the high and under sheriff, several gentlemen of the bar, officers of the court, and other professional gentlemen, dined together at the Assembly rooms in Newcastle, for the purpose of presenting to Thomas Clennell, esq., the late chairman of the county, a splendid and richly ornamented silver candelabrum, on a triangular pedestal, supported on three highly ornamented feet of the Roman character. On one side was the following inscription:—"To Thomas Clennell, of Harbottle castle, esq., from the Custos rotulorum, and the Justices of the Peace, the Officers and Legal Practitioners of the Court of Quarter Sessions of the County of Northumberland, in Memorial of his long, zealous, and efficient Services as Chairman, 1829." On another side was Mr. Clennell's arms, and on the third side the arms of the county of Northumberland, with the motto, "Libertas et Natale Solum." The pillar was highly enriched in the same style of ornament as the pedestal, terminating in six bracket branches and a centre light. It was presented by Charles William Bigge, esq., who had been elected January 15th 1829, to succeed Mr. Clennell as chairman of the county. The value of it was said to be 250 guineas. It was manufactured by Messrs. Rundell and Bridge, of London.—*Ibid.*

January 28.—Between ten and eleven o'clock at night, a most destructive fire broke out in the extensive coach manufactory of Mr. J. L. Angas, in Angas' court, Bigg market, Newcastle, which entirely destroyed the same, with the greatest part of the contents, even before the fire engines could arrive. The fire, which was first seen to issue from above Mr. Angas' counting-house, was not got under till near four o'clock on the following morning (Friday). The fire soon extended to the houses in the court, on the side next to St. John's lane, and three of them, to the bare walls, were destroyed, and also several workshops in the Fighting Cocks' yard, on the opposite side of the court. The immense floor cloth manufactory of Mr. Hardeastle, which towers above the houses on the west side of St. John's lane, also soon caught fire in the roof, but fortunately, by the exertions of the firemen and others, it was extinguished without extending downwards, or the whole square of buildings from the Nunsgate to the Assembly rooms must have shared its fate. The windows of the houses on the west side of St. John's lane caught fire by the heat from the burning mass on the opposite side, but by driving out the

frames, and the playing of the engines upon them, they were saved from total destruction. As most of the neighbours were in bed when the fire was discovered, much distress occurred in their escape; several were in their night clothes only, though the frost was very severe. The whole of Mr. Angas' stock, with the exception of a few carriages, got out of the yard, was destroyed. His workmen lost tools to the value of 100 guineas. Mr. Samuel Stokoe, who had a wine and spirit cellar in St. John's lane, received damage to the extent of nearly £300., but fortunately he was insured. A house at the back of the buildings on the east side of St. John's lane, near the church, was almost wholly demolished. Another house about the centre of the lane on the east side, which had portions of Mr. Angas' manufactory at either end, and at the back, suffered severely, and being a numerous-tenanted dwelling, the confusion and dismay were proportionably great. It was owing to the intrepidity of Abraham Wilson, a paviour, that the pipe of one of the engines reached the roof of Mr. Hardcastle's floor cloth manufactory. Wilson broke through the roof of a dwelling house on the west side of St. John's lane, and succeeded in placing a fireman upon it, so that the latter was enabled to play on the building; but the preservation of that stupendous building was mainly attributable to the unwearied exertions of Thomas Falcus and William Mills, two of Mr. Hardcastle's workmen, who succeeded in reaching the roof from the interior of the manufactory, and aided by a number of their friends, and a plentiful supply of water from a large reservoir on the premises, they succeeded in checking and eventually extinguishing the flames, without any serious injury having been sustained, except in the partial destruction of that part of the roof which was actually on fire. A conflagration so direful in its consequences, had, it was supposed, never before occurred in Newcastle. The lofty and beautiful steeple of St. Nicholas' church being illuminated by the flames, had a most remarkable appearance. Plunder to a most disgraceful extent was effected during this dreadful calamity, in consequence of which, the houses of various suspicious characters were afterwards searched, and much stolen property found. At the spring assizes in March, Elizabeth Smith, aged 29 years, Jane Craggs, and Richard Beecher, aged 21 years; were each sentenced to be transported for 14 years, for stealing bedding, clothes, &c., during this fire.—*Local Papers.*

1830 (Feb. 23).—An inquest was held before Edward Hemsley, esq., coroner for Newcastle, on the body of a female child about five months old, name unknown. It appeared that the child had been left about eight o'clock the preceding evening, on the outer step of a house in the Salt entry, in the Close, near the Bridge-end, fully

dressed, and having also on a lilac speckled cloak and brown beaver hat, nearly new, with a bundle containing an abundance of excellent child's clothing, worth not less than £4. on one side of it, and a basket containing food and a child's tin pot with the name Ann upon it, on the other. There was also a letter found in the bundle, of which the following is a copy, viz:—"When you get this little girl its unfurtunate mother will be no more deserted by an it inhuame father I had nothing to support it with oh do not forsak it and may the blessing of the alinighy showr down his choicest bleasings upon you is the Preacer of its unfurntate Mother." It was a remarkably fine child, and when found, was suffering under violent convulsive fits, brought on by being exposed to the weather. Mr. Hosegood, surgeon, was called in, and gave it every assistance: it lingered until six o'clock the following morning, and then died. The jury returned a verdict of "Natural Death under violent convulsive fits." The child's name was supposed to be Ann Wilkinson.—*Local Papers*.



RUINS OF HARBOTTLE CASTLE (1840).

CHAPTER III.



IED, at Snow Hall, near Darlington, on the 28th of February, 1830, in his 60th year, Thomas Sherwood, esq., M. D. For thirty years Dr. Sherwood engaged himself in the active duties of his profession with zeal and ability rarely surpassed even at this day, when liberal feeling, enlarged understanding, and cultivated taste form so general and so prominent features in the character of an English medical practitioner. Not content with the ordinary routine of professional education, he had, during the early years of his active life, applied himself with ardour to the study of Cullen, Gregory, and other eminent authors, until his theory and his practice thus combining and lending mutual aid to each other, he gradually acquired that confidence in himself which was ever after so fine a trait in his character, and by which he was enabled instinctively, as it were, to recognize latent disease, and to administer promptly either to its prevention or its cure. In cases of fracture of the skull, or other accidental or natural derangement of the head he was eminently successful. One of these, in particular, deserves to be recorded. During his residence at Bishop Auckland, a boy fell from a high wall, and beat upon his head. Dr. Sherwood though altogether in despair of saving him, trepanned the boy, prolonged his life to this day, and was consulted on the extraordinary operation he had performed by almost every eminent practitioner in the kingdom. His classical education had been from circumstances limited, but he gave signal proof, when in the society of those who had approached nearer to the "entegros fontes" than himself, that

he had afterwards traced them to their source, had tasted, and had drunk deeply too, of the thousand delightful rills which fall into the grand stream of poetry. Amid his other active employments, he stole many an hour which he consecrated to history, the poetry, the biography of his own country. Thence he informed his understanding and cultivated his taste: thence too, he drew those stores, which, ever beaming as they did within the breast of their possessor, shed too their benign and delightful influence on his companions and his friends. Whoever heard him give, with that distinct and manly intonation, that energetical expression, so peculiar to himself, Gray's ode to adversity, or Johnson's critique on Milton's plan of initiating his pupils into Latin, without being awakened to the most lively sense of the stern simplicity of the one, or the comprehensive and grasping vigour of the other? But troubles came thick and throng upon him. The first shaft was aimed at him by the perfidiousness of friends; the next by a higher and more awful power. His daughter and his favourite son were taken from him within a few weeks of each other. His eldest daughter on the 25th of October 1829, aged 22. Elizabeth Sarah Sherwood was kind and affectionate upon the truest principle of filial duty, and those who witnessed her many and painful days upon her death-bed, can well answer for those intense feelings of unfeigned religion, which awed and at the same time cheered her sinking mind. The history of Ralph Sherwood, who died a few weeks after his sister, is soon told. He was destined for the medical profession, and with this view he studied for a while in London, and was afterwards removed to Edinburgh, where his quickness and talent, his great attention to anatomical and surgical pursuits, and the accuracy of his pencil and pen in sketching off-hand, in the hospitals to which he had access, those various morbid, or other appearances produced by nature or the hand of the operator, soon gained for him the notice and approbation of men whose veriest word was praise. During his abode in Edinburgh, Mr. Sherwood became possessed of five very amusing Letters written by Mr. Ritson to Mr Laing, which, with a portrait of their eccentric author etched by himself, he communicated to Mr. Nichols, who inserted them in the third volume of "Literary Illustrations of the 18th century," p. 775, &c. But here begins the sad tale; that under a mistaken idea of the high theatrical powers, which men into whose company it was his misfortune to fall (Mr. Kean among the number) persuaded him that he possessed, and in connexion with the fact that his expensive habits had made him afraid of meeting his justly irritated father, he at once quitted the profession in which he was so well qualified to excel and betook himself to the stage. He had, however, the grace to drop his paternal

surname—but the name of *Ralph Sherwin* will not soon be forgotten, not only in most of the provincial theatres, but even at Drury-lane, where, in *Dandie Dinmont*, and similar characters which require a man *well read* in provincial phraseology, he most particularly excelled. To follow this misguided youth through the various chances and changes of his subsequent history is unnecessary if even it were possible. It may suffice to state, in general, that for many a year he drank deep of that bitter cup which is prepared for those who have exchanged their home, under such circumstances, for so degraded an occupation. He was at length, however, freely forgiven by his offended father, and without one single murmur of displeasure was welcomed to his home; but, after a very short time, without any apparent reason, he abruptly quitted his father's house, attached himself to the stage once more, slept in a damp bed in Cambridge, early in the year 1830, and came home to die. The full and free condonation of what was past, and the pleasurable intercourse and conversation between father and son, so far as the grief of the former for the death of his daughter, and the deeply-rooted disease of the latter, would permit, will not be soon forgotten by those who witnessed them both. Amid the gloom which, from all sides, lowered around him, the father recognized not the arm which, in chastening, was correcting and purifying his heart: he would talk incoherently of his lost daughter from morning till night, and he would sit gazing, with a vacant, glassy eye, upon a picture of his son in one of his characters. He was forlorn and blighted—reason ruled on her seat—she received not from him that “sweet oblivious antidote” so often administered to others—the conflict was over, and he hurried into eternity. His body was found in the Tees, at the distance of a field from his house, and was afterwards buried with his father and mother and children in Staindrop church-yard.—*Gent's. Mag.*

1830 (March 8).—The developement of an Egyptian mummy took place at the lecture room of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle. The mummy, a female, brought from Egypt by baron Denon, was presented to the society by John Bowes Wright, esq., who purchased it at the baron's sale in Paris. It was opened by Messrs. Greenhow, Baird, and Fife, surgeons. The quantity of nankeen coloured cloth in which it was enveloped weighed no less than 50lbs. 6oz. It took two hours to denude the body, which, when exposed and dissected, was found in a remarkably perfect state; the hair upon the head was long and perfect, of a reddish tinge, but become grey, the teeth were white and perfect, the breasts were large and pendulous, reaching almost to the spurious ribs. The colour of the mummy was a sepia brown, it was contained in two cases,

apparently of sycamore wood, above two inches thick, divided into equal portions, and in a state of considerable preservation. This mummy, in its denuded state, is now in a glass case, and placed in one of the apartments of the Natural History Society, Newcastle.—*Local Papers.*

1830 (March 9).—The rev. R. Wasney, A.M., preached his last sermon at St. Thomas' chapel, north end of Tyne bridge, Newcastle, previous to the removal of that ancient structure. The corporation of the Trinity house accommodated the congregation with their chapel, until the new church at the Barras bridge was completed.—*Ibid.*



CHAPEL OF THE TRINITY HOUSE (1825).

March 15.—An alarming fire took place in a thatched two story dwelling house, situated at the west end of Tweedmouth, which occasioned the loss of two lives. One of the sufferers was Ann Aitchinson, 93 years of age, a rag woman, and in whose house the fire originated; the other was Alexander Tindil, 80 years of age, who resided alone in a room above that of Aitchinson's; he could not be roused, and was very soon enveloped in the flames. The other occupants, twelve in number, escaped with their lives, but lost every thing they possessed. A subscription was entered into for their relief, having been reduced to a most deplorable state of destitution.—*Ibid.*

March 19.—Died, at Chester-le-street, Mrs. Ann Watson, widow, aged 101 years.—*Ibid.*

March 25, or according to a Family Register, 26th.—Died, James

Ellis, esq., of Otterburne hall, Northumberland. He was the son of William Ellis of Hexham, glover, who carried on his business in Priestpopple, but at the period of his son's birth, held the office of town-sergeant, and had his residence at the prison. James Ellis was born about January, 1763; he entered as a clerk, first in the office of William Hunter, solicitor, of Hexham. On the death of that gentleman, he became associated with Thomas Bedingfield and George Pickering, in the office of Messrs. Davidson of Newcastle, the successors of their deceased father;—this was in the beginning of 1783. On commencing business, he practised some little time in Hexham, having his office in what was then called the Black and the Grey yard, now the Nag's head, opposite the Meal-market. He soon settled at Newcastle, and some time after, in conjunction with Mr. Davidson, bought Otterburne estate, which they divided: the mansion fell to Mr. Ellis' lot, and this was his residence the remainder of his life. Here he indulged those literary pursuits for which he had an elegant taste; and sometimes was honoured with having sir Walter Scott for his guest. His death is thus recorded in the Newcastle Chronicle, of April 3rd, 1830.—Died, "At Otterburne hall, on the 25th ult., James Ellis, esq. A few years ago, he edited the Poems of Bedingfield and Pickering; and added to the volume some pieces of his own, which evince correctness of taste and sensibility of feeling. His knowledge of Border History was extensive; and from the materials which he communicated to sir Walter Scott, the latter bestowed on him the appellation of an "ingenious correspondent, and a learned antiquary." He died at the age of 67. Ellis's volume was published in 1815, entitled—"Poetry, Fugitive and Original, by the late Thomas Bedingfield, esq., and Mr. George Pickering: with notes, and some additional pieces by a Friend." The shares which the two former gentlemen respectively had in the production of this volume, have been considered in other parts of this work. Ellis calls his portion—'Trifles.' To some of the pieces the appellation is not inappropriate. The rhyming letter to T. D., esq., with a key, is neither creditable to the writer, his correspondent, nor his travelling companion. But though not powerful, his poems are generally polished, some of them elegant, reminding one of Logan, from whom he has unconsciously borrowed sometimes a line,—vide 'The Dream.' The 'Ode to Morpheus' was first published in the Gentleman's Magazine, for August 1792. His choice of subjects indicates a high admiration of the fair sex. His own copy of the Poetry contains some MS. notes. Appended to an 'Epitaph on a young Lady,' is the following—'Eleanor Ord, whose father was some time my tenant at Grisonsfield.' And attached to the unfinished poem

entitled 'the Rights of Woman,' is this note—'It is a remarkable fact, not much adverted to, that at the time of Columbus's second voyage, the island of Guadaloupe was inhabited by a nation of Amazons.' Whether our author, who married a Miss Gallon, found in his Rachael a full measure of connubial bliss, we cannot tell; but they were long spared to each other, her death preceding his but ten weeks; their only child, a daughter, having died many years previously.—*Jos. Ridley's MSS.*

1830 (April 18.)—Died, at Bishopwearmouth Pans, Francis Donkin, keelman, aged upwards of 104 years.—*Local Papers.*

April 20.—A new fish-market, at Alnwick, erected at the expence of his grace the duke of Northumberland, was opened on the above day, it being the anniversary of his grace's birth.—*Ibid.*

April 26.—The old chapel of St. Thomas à Becket, at the north end of Tyne-bridge, Newcastle, was commenced being pulled down. A range of handsome stone buildings have been erected on its site. These erections, which are placed $17\frac{1}{2}$ feet back from the line of the front of the old chapel, have made a great improvement in the turn from the bridge to the Sandhill, which, before, was inconveniently narrow and extremely dangerous to passengers.—*Ibid.*

April 28.—A petition to the king from Mr. Thomas Drummond, collier, of Painshier, claiming the titles and dignities of earl of Perth, in Scotland, which were forfeited by the attainder of his grandfather, James Drummond, commonly called the "duke of Perth," for having joined in the rebellion in Scotland in the year 1745, was by virtue of his majesty's order of reference, presented to the house of lords, and was referred by their lordships to a committee of privileges. The circumstances attending the claim of Drummond were said to be of a nature more interesting than any hitherto brought before the public.—*Ibid.*

April 2.—A person of the name of Cleghorn did penance in St. Mary's church, Gateshead, as punishment for the defamation of the character of Miss Anne Bishop Thompson Nicholson.—*MS. Col.*

May 1.—A large party of gentlemen including a portion of the committee of management of the Stockton and Darlington railway company, a number of proprietors, the chief clerk, secretary, and other officers of the company, with numerous other individuals, set off from Darlington, in several railway coaches, to open the Haggarr Leazes branch, which diverges from the trunk of the railway at West Auckland, and extends westward to Cockfield Fell, and thence in the direction of Butterknowl colliery, in all a distance of five miles. The party were met at the foot of the inclined plane, near to West Auckland, a little before eleven o'clock, by Mr. Storey, the chief

engineer of the company, and a considerable body of spectators, who had assembled to greet them on their arrival. The West Auckland band of music, seated in waggons provided for their convenience, having joined them, and a procession having been formed, it moved forward at a brisk rate. On entering the branch, the band struck up "God save the King," and the populace, at that time still further augmented, gave three hearty cheers. Several ladies having after a short delay, joined the procession, the word to advance was again given, and the whole body of carriages and people proceeded up the railway to the point of destination. The weather being extremely favourable, the number of spectators continued gradually to increase until they amounted to between 2,000 and 3,000. This branch was finally completed and opened with great éclat, October the 3rd, 1830.—*Local Papers.*

1830 (May 14).—The foundation stone of a Unitarian chapel was laid in Bridge street, Bishopwearmouth, by the rev. William Turner, of Hanover square chapel, Newcastle. Mr. Turner delivered an address on the occasion to the persons assembled to witness the ceremony.—*Ibid.*

Same day, died, in South street, in the city of Durham, Mrs. Elizabeth Hodgson, aged 102 years.—*Ibid.*

May 19.—This day (Wednesday), and the two following, there were horse races on the island called the King's Meadows, in the river Tyne, a little west of Newcastle. Tents were erected on the island, and various shows, &c., on the north shore of the river, which drew together a vast number of people. There was also a regatta upon the river.—*Ibid.*

May 24.—The foundation stone of a new chapel was laid at Winlaton, in the county of Durham, by the rev. J. Curtis, of the Methodist new connexion.—*Ibid.*

June 28.—The intelligence of the death of his majesty king George IV. was received in Newcastle on the morning of the above day (Monday), and as early as six o'clock the bells of the several churches began to toll minute-time, and continued to do so at alternate hours throughout the day. The flag on the castle was hoisted half staff high, as were the colours of the several vessels in the river; most of the shops were closed, or partially so, and the performances at the theatre were discontinued on that and the following evening. The flag on the castle retained its mournful position till after the interment of his majesty took place. At Sunderland, the flags were hoisted half staff high upon the steeples of the churches of that town, Bishopwearmouth, and Monkwearmouth, and the bells were tolled without intermission until sunset. The vessels in the harbour also

displayed their colours half mast high on this mournful occasion, and the theatre was closed. The colours continued in that state till the period of his majesty's interment. At the various other towns in Northumberland and Durham, every token of respect was shown on this melancholy occasion.—*Local Papers.*

1830 (June 28.)—Died, in the Friars, Newcastle, Mrs. Sarah Clark, aged 101 years.—*Ibid.*



PART OF THE BLACK FRIARY, NEWCASTLE.

THE CORDWAINERS OLD HALL. REMOVED, SEPT.—NOV. 1843.

June 30.—Being the day appointed by George Shadforth, esq., mayor of Newcastle, for the proclamation of his majesty, William the Fourth, a troop of the Northumberland and Newcastle volunteer cavalry, and a company of the dismounted yeomanry, proceeded to the Sandhill shortly after eleven o'clock, where they formed into two lines for the purpose of escorting the civil authorities in the procession. At twelve o'clock a royal salute was fired from the castle, the bells of the several churches ringing merrily. A detachment of the artillery, and a troop of the 3rd light dragoons, stationed at the barracks, then arrived, and formed in front of the local corps. At this period the scene was one of unusual animation, the day was uncommonly fine, and every window and house-top which commanded a view of the spot were crowded to excess, and the Sandhill, outside the military lines, was one dense mass of spectators. The firing of the castle guns having ceased, the right worshipful the mayor, accompanied by the recorder, sheriff, under sheriff, several of the clergy, and a number of the gentlemen of the common council came down from the guildhall

to the Sandhill, preceded by the flag, mace, and sword of the corporation. The trumpet having sounded, the proclamation was read by Mr. Thomas Forsyth, the town-marshal, at the conclusion of which the band played "God Save the King," and the populace joined in three times three cheers. The procession then moved slowly up the Side in the following order:—

Volunteer Dragoons in single files. Dismounted Volunteers in ditto. Constables.	Dragoons in double files.			Volunteer Dragoons in single files. Dismounted Volunteers in ditto. Constables.
	Royal Artillery.			
	Dismounted Volunteers in double files.			
	Constables.			
	Free Porters with halberts.			
	Music			
	Sergeants at Mace.			
	Corporation Flag.			
	Two Trumpeters.			
	Town-marshal with Proclamation.			
	Regalia.			
	2nd Officer	} Mayor. {	Officer	
	in command.		commanding.	
	Aldermen.		Recorder.	
	Aldermen.		Aldermen.	
	Sheriff.			
	Under Sheriff.	Town Clerk.		
	Clergy.			
	Common Councilmen, &c.			
	Dismounted Volunteers in double files.			
	Volunteer Dragoons in double files.			

On arriving at St. Nicholas' square, the proclamation was repeated, as it was afterwards at the White cross. The retinue then returned to the Guildhall by Blackett street, Pilgrim street, &c., and the civil authorities having withdrawn, the military returned to their stations. The bells continued to ring throughout the remainder of the day, and shortly after seven o'clock in the evening, another royal salute was fired from the castle. A royal salute was also fired from the ordnance stationed at the barracks.—*Local Papers.*

1830 (June 30).—His majesty, king William IV. was proclaimed in the barrack-yard, at Sunderland, by the officers of the dépôt of the 80th regiment, and a feu de joie was fired by the soldiery.—*Ibid.*

July 3.—His majesty was proclaimed at Sunderland on the above day (Saturday), at noon by the magistrates.—*Ibid.*

July 5.—The ceremony of proclaiming his majesty took place at Durham, under the centre of the Piazza in the market place, at one o'clock, by T. Griffith, esq., the under sheriff, accompanied by the

mayor and aldermen in their robes, with the different trades' banners, halberdiers, constables, sheriff's officers, trumpeters, &c.; there were also present the bishop of Bristol, rev. W. S. Gilly, rev. C. Thorp, prebendaries of Durham, and a great concourse of citizens and inhabitants. The proclamation was afterwards read at the high side of the market, the procession then moved to the front of the county courts, at the head of Old Elvet, where the proclamation was repeated. Similar proceedings took place at all the other towns in Northumberland and Durham.—*Local Papers*.

1830 (July 6).—Between four and five o'clock on the morning, a fire broke out in the candle manufactory of Messrs. Greene, and son, Gateshead. At first the progress of the flames was very alarming, but by speedy assistance they were fortunately subdued, after doing damage to the amount of between £200. and £300. The fire originated from a beam which had a communication with the flue of a furnace. A quantity of spirits were in the adjoining premises, separated, however, from the fire, by a massy stone wall. Had the flames got an entrance there, the destruction must have been immense, and the danger of the houses in the neighbourhood proportionably increased. The property was fully insured.—*Ibid*.

July 15.—The day appointed for the interment of his Majesty king George IV., at Windsor, Newcastle presented an appearance of solemnity in strict accordance to the wishes of the chief magistrate. The magistracy went in solemn procession to St. Nicholas' church, preceded by the regalia, covered with black crape. The freemasons and the orangemen went also in procession to the same edifice, the former according to the order in their circular, "Costume—Black, with black gloves, and regulation aprons," and the latter with orange rosettes in their breasts. St. Nicholas' church, on this occasion, was crowded to excess, many persons having to retire for want of accommodation. The pulpit was covered with black cloth, as were also the pews occupied by the magistrates. Various muffled peals were rung during the day, the artillery stationed at the barracks fired minute guns during one hour in the evening, and minute guns were fired from the castle for one hour before sunset, when the solemnities of the day terminated. Suitable observances of this day took place in all the towns and many of the villages in Northumberland and Durham.—*Ibid*.

July 27.—A live cattle market was held for the first time, on a piece of ground on the west side of the Forth, Newcastle. There was a large and choice supply of cattle, and a considerable supply of sheep and lambs. The number of the former about 130, and of the latter 900. Nearly the whole were sold. This market, which is

held on the Tuesday in every week, was established by the corporation of that town, who very generously announced that no charges would be made for pens, &c.—*Local Papers.*



1830 (July 31).—Died, at his residence in Elvet, Durham, Robert Henry M^c Donald, esq., aged 80. He was the eldest and only surviving son of the late William M^c Donald, esq., M.D., a native of the town of Perth, N. B., and subsequently a resident in the island of Jamaica, and in the city of Bristol, where he died. The late R. H. M^c Donald, esq., in early life, studied for the medical profession, and took his degree of M.D., but he never practised, and for many years previous to his decease, had discontinued the title of "Doctor." He married Mary, the daughter of the late Mr. Chilton of Fishburn, in the county of Durham, and whom he survived but a short period. Dying without issue, his property and estates passed by devise, to the old Yorkshire family of Dixon, of Beeston. Mr. M^c Donald was lineally descended from a branch of the ancient Scotch family of M^c Donald of Clan Ronald.—*Ibid.*

August 3.—A dreadful explosion of hydrogen gas took place in Jarrow colliery, at about twenty minutes before six o'clock on the morning, when forty two men and boys were deprived of life. Twenty-one of the men were married, leaving widows and sixty-six children. There were one hundred and twenty men in the mine, of whom seventy were in the Bensham seam where the blast took place. Ten more were much injured, and two horses were killed. It appeared on the inquest that the miners had broken into a crack or fissure in the coal, whence the inflammable gas suddenly issued, and was ignited by some negligence in the use of the Davy lamp, as the mine was well ventilated just before.—*Ibid.*

August 17.—Died, at Sunderland, in the Minories, Mrs. Ann Erskine, aged 104 years.—*Ibid.*

August 21.—The new market at Sunderland, was opened this day (Saturday) to the public, for the sale of butchers' meat, fish, poultry, vegetables, &c. &c. The commissioners under the paving and lighting act, walked in procession from the commission room to the market-place, at six o'clock on the morning, when Mr. Caleb Wilson briefly addressed the spectators, declaring the market open for the sale of the above articles. About forty gentlemen, commissioners and others, dined together in celebration of the event, at the Golden Lion inn, on Tuesday the 24th, Sir C. Sharp in the chair.—*Ibid.*

1830 (Aug. 22).—The new gallery and organ in the Catholic chapel, at North Shields, erected at the expence of the pastor, were opened, on which occasion several pieces of sacred music, by eminent composers, were performed on the organ. The chapel was crowded to excess. At the same time was uncovered, at the altar, a large picture of the crucifixion, painted by Ramsay, a composition of several figures larger than life, painted with great truth and brilliancy of effect. The cost of this picture was defrayed by subscription.—*Local Papers.*

August 25.—This day (Wednesday) between twelve and one o'clock, arrived in Newcastle, the extraordinary stage performer, Miss D'Jeck, the Siamese elephant. Mr. Nicholson, the manager of the theatre royal in that town, having entered into engagements with Mr. Yates, for the performance of this animal upon the stage, it was intended to bring her from Edinburgh, where she had been performing, by the Ardincaple steam vessel sailing between Leith and Newcastle, but the high sea preventing the vessel from sailing in time, the elephant set out from Edinburgh in the evening of the 21st on foot, and walked the whole of the way from that city to Newcastle, a distance of about 120 miles. An immense concourse of people had assembled at the Barras-bridge, &c., Newcastle, to witness her entry. She had excited great curiosity on the road. The animal, which was about ten feet in height, was escorted by thousands of curious attendants, among whom she gravely kept her way, preceded by her keeper, without rope or chain, and with perfect indifference. She proceeded by Pilgrim-street and Mosley-street, to the theatre (the stage door way of which had been enlarged for her ingress), and exhibited her wonderful performances the same evening, without shewing any signs of fatigue. The following was said to be her daily consumption, viz:—76lbs. of potatoes, 60lbs. of hay, 60lbs. of straw, 11 quartern loaves, a bushel of bran, and a bushel of oats, and water in proportion. This noble animal was of a light colour and very fat. She had such an aversion to a carriage, that nothing could induce her to enter one. Whilst at Morpeth, on her road to Newcastle, she killed one of her attendants, an Italian, named Baptiste Bernard. This man, in a state of intoxication, three years before, had stabbed the trunk of this noble animal with a fork, and otherwise ill used her, in consequence of which, she ever after regarded him with aversion. At Morpeth, when he happening to be alone with her, she grasped him round the waist with her trunk, broke his ribs, and otherwise crushed him so much, that he died two days afterwards. On the expiration of her engagement at Newcastle, she was shipped from thence in the London steam-vessel, for the metropolis.—*Ibid.*



1830.—The rubbish was partially removed from a room close to the outside of the wall of the Roman station of Borcovicus (Housesteads), and to the right of the southern gateway (see A. D. 1822), and which seemed to have had an upper floor. It measured 24 feet by 15, and communicated by a dark passage through the wall of the station with a circular kiln, formed of masonry without lime, within a strong square tower, and having, 2 feet above the level of its upper floor, an oven of sandstone, which had been much used. The lower floor and eye of the kiln also exhibited strong marks of fire: and a quantity of strong broken freestone slates, coated with a stratum of lime mixed with broken pottery and brick, shewed that the upper floor had been made of such materials. Mr. Hodgson is of opinion that these apartments formed a true Roman *pistrina*, or place for drying and grinding corn, and making it into bread.—(*Hodgson's Northd.*) The accompanying illustrations represent a portion of the Roman wall, west of Housesteads, as it now appears; and a pedestal found at this station in the above year.



September 9.—Died, at Clapham-rise, Surrey, William Bulmer, esq., aged 73 years, a native of Newcastle. The name of Bulmer is associated with all that is correct and beautiful in typography, and all that celebrity which for so many years belonged to the Shakspeare press. In him it may be truly said, that the art of printing has been deprived of one of its brightest ornaments; as a proof it is only necessary to enumerate the beautiful edition of Goldsmith and Parnell's poems, and Somerville's Chase, with wood cuts by Messrs. Thomas and John Bewick.—*Local Rec.*

September 9.—Died, at Greenfield, near Alnwick, Mr. John Henderson, aged 101 years.—*Local Papers.*

1830.—Independent chapel, Felling, near Gateshead, founded. The register of births and baptisms, 44 entries, extends from 1831 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

The Presbyterian chapel, Bishopwearmouth, founded. The register of births and baptisms, 35 entries, extends from 1831 to 1837.—*Ibid.*

The Primitive Methodist chapel (Bethesda) at Hexham, was built this year. It has afforded little satisfaction to the people worshipping in it; having from the first shewn indications of insufficiency in the workmanship; and being all along encumbered with debt. This denomination established themselves in Hexham, in 1822, and first met for worship in a long room, at the Old Golden Lion, but soon removed to the Malt kiln lane, Battle-hill; which was their meeting place till 1830. William Suthard was their first preacher, and William Brining, senr., has been superintendent during the last two years, (1843).—*Jos. Ridley's MSS.*

September 10.—A very serious accident happened at Morpeth. There were some mountebanks who had been performing on the south side of the river on what is called the High-stanners, and after the performances were over, as the crowd was returning by the chain bridge at the foot of Aldgate, it came down with a tremendous crash, and from two to three hundred persons upon it at the time, were precipitated into the river. The scene of confusion that ensued baffles description. One boy had his leg broken, another boy his thigh, and several persons were seriously injured, but happily no lives were lost. The accident was occasioned by some idle fellows jumping upon the bridge when much crowded.—*Local Papers.*

September 19.—The Roman Catholic chapel, in Pilgrim-street, Newcastle, was re-opened for divine worship, after having undergone a thorough painting, gilding, &c., and with the addition of side galleries. Two finely relieved representations of St. Peter and St. Paul, (executed by J. Ewbank,) were painted, one on each side of the altar; they are imitations of statues standing in niches in the wall, and from the judicious distribution of light and shade, have an imposing effect. Selections of vocal and instrumental music were performed, and collections made towards defraying the expences, amounting to nearly £50.—*Ibid.*

September 22.—The new Roman Catholic chapel at Hexham was opened; having been founded in 1828, and built under the direction and management of the rev. Michael Singleton, an ingenious artist, as well as a zealous priest, under whom a flourishing congregation worship beneath the roof of a splendid edifice, which is constantly being embellished with new decorations; and to which is attached a con-

venient burying ground. For many years previously, there had been two catholic chapels in Hexham, one in Cockshaw, which long was the scene of the labours of the rev. Matthew Sharpe, the other in Hencotes, on the premises now forming the minister's house, adjoining the new chapel, which was served during a lengthened period by the rev. Jasper Leadbitter, the sixth Leadbitter, of the order of St. Dominick, as is stated in his epitaph in the Campy-hill. Mr. Sharpe was buried in the old school, now called the Ladye chapel. Recurring to a period antecedent to the building of the two older Catholic chapels, we find, in more intolerant times, the people met for worship in a house, the second from the foot of the Holy Island; and at a still remoter era, they worshipped in a little thatched cottage, near the Ladle-well, in Cockshaw loaning, belonging a branch of the Leadbitter family, now Kirsopp, long dilapidated and recently demolished.—*Jos. Ridley's MSS.*

1830 (Sep).—Some workmen employed in levelling a part of the Newcastle road, about a mile and a half east of Hexham, found, a little beneath the surface of the ground, the skeleton of a man, which had apparently lain there a long time, and had been deposited with much care, a grave having been formed of large stones set up in such a manner as to prevent the earth from coming in immediate contact with the body.—*Local Papers.*

September.—At this time Hexham church was undergoing very important alterations in its interior, in being re-pewed and fitted up with stoves and flues for heating it. The workmen, in clearing a piece of ground lying between the south transept and the side entrance to the choir, where the boiler was to be placed, uncovered a number of ancient tomb stones of a description exactly similar to that of John Malerbe, described and engraved in Wright's History of Hexham. They were very uniform in size and figure, being coffin-shaped and presenting no inscription but the name, which ran lengthways along the centre of the stone in old characters, but perfectly legible. The masons used part of them in carrying on the repairs of the church.—*Ibid.*

This month, in digging a grave near the north wall of Tynemouth abbey, a rude stone coffin was discovered, in which two human bodies had been deposited. One of the skeletons, on the air being admitted, immediately crumbled to dust, whilst the other who had been a person of superior magnitude, remained perfect a considerable time.—*Ibid.*

October 6.—A bazaar for the benefit of the infant schools in Newcastle, was opened at the new Music-hall, near the east end of Blackett-street, built by Mr. Richard Grainger, who generously gave the use of it for the occasion. The stalls (twelve in number) were

arranged up each side of the room and across the ends, on which were placed fancy articles of every description, many of them most tastefully and superbly got up, and furnished by the ladies and friends of the institution. The stalls were attended by ladies of the first distinction and respectability of the town and neighbourhood. This being the first bazaar ever got up in that town, and for such a noble purpose, it excited very great interest, and long before the time of opening the room, the front was crowded with company anxious to gain admittance. During the whole of the time the bazaar was open, the room was crowded with visitors, and many could not get admission. The receipts were £712. 15s.—*Local Papers*



EAST END OF BLACKETT-STREET (1840).

1830 (Oct. 14).—The lord bishop of Carlisle, consecrated a piece of ground which had been liberally given to the parish of Alnwick, by his grace the duke of Northumberland, for the enlargement of the church yard, it being in an excessively crowded state.—*Ibid.*

October 19.—The hon. and right rev. Dr. Percy, lord bishop of Carlisle, consecrated the new chapel of the hospital of St. Mary Magdalen, at the Barras-bridge, Newcastle. On the entrance of the bishop, to the chapel, the members of the Newcastle and Gateshead choral society sung the chorus "Lift up your heads," accompanied by Mr. Ingham on the piano forte, and by a small band of music led by Mr. Bagnall. The deed of consecration was read by the rev. James Raine, of Durham, as the representative of the chancellor, and the bishop having signed it ordered it to be duly registered. The rev Mr. Wasney, read the morning service, and the proper psalms and

lessons, the bishop reading the communion service. The rev. Richd.



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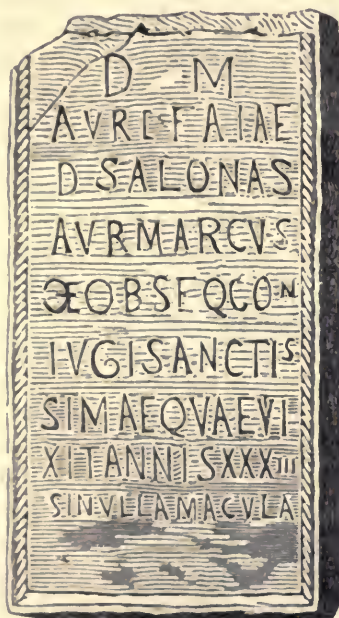


Clayton, master of the hospital, then preached a very appropriate sermon, from Revelations, chap. 21st. verse 3rd. On its conclusion, the Choral Society sung the Hallelujah chorus. This elegant chapel, called St. Thomas's, was not quite finished, but the east window of stained glass, manufactured by Mr. John Gibson, of Newcastle, excited much admiration. The window is in three divisions, at the top of the centre one, are the arms of the corporation, whilst the division on the north displays the arms of the present master of the hospital, and that on the south those of George Anderson, esq., a liberal contributor to the building fund. The chapel was first opened for divine service on the 7th of November, 1830.—*Local Papers.*

1830.—While the rev. Anthony Hedley was collecting some loose stones from the Roman station of Vindolana, for the purpose of erecting his cottage of Chesterholme, he found (with others) the two inscriptions here figured (1. 2.) The first is a fragment of an altar dedicated to Veterinus, a local deity of frequent mention, in inscriptions in the north of England; and the second, a mural stone set up by the Century of Valerianus. The others are funeral inscriptions found in the same station, at about the same period, and preserved with others in the arcade of Chesterholme.—*MS. Col.*

1830.—The rubbish of numerous rooms, remains of the great Roman station of Caervorran, in the manor of Blenkinsopp, Northumberland, was cleared out quite to their floors. The largest building opened is just within the south wall, and near the south-west corner of the station. It had a large hypocaust and several rooms floored with bath cement, laid on large flat stones, and supported by pillars, many

of the stones of which, by the lines and mouldings upon them, had been evidently used in former buildings. The mouth of the furnace of the hypocaust was deeply reddened and corroded by fire, and one of its flues covered with a firm arch, secured by a regular key-stone. The walls of one of these rooms, when first exposed, were so strongly and beautifully painted, that their colours glittered in the sun like stained glass. The outer walls of the building were about 26 inches thick, the inner ones 22, and the whole in the firm style of ashlar masonry now commonly used in farm-houses where good sand-stone abounds. Numerous remains have been turned up here at various times. The accompanying illustration represents an



inscription found near the station about this period, and presented to the Society of Antiquaries, Newcastle, by colonel Coulson of Blenkinsopp. It is a funeral monument to Aurelia Faia, the wife of Aurelius Marcus, a centurion. She was a native of Salina, and died at the age of thirty eight, "SINE VLLA MACULA."—*Hodgson. MS. Col.*

October 25.—The first horse and cattle fair was held at Morpeth. It was to be held half yearly; the second fair, was held on the 24th of March, 1831.—*Local Papers.*

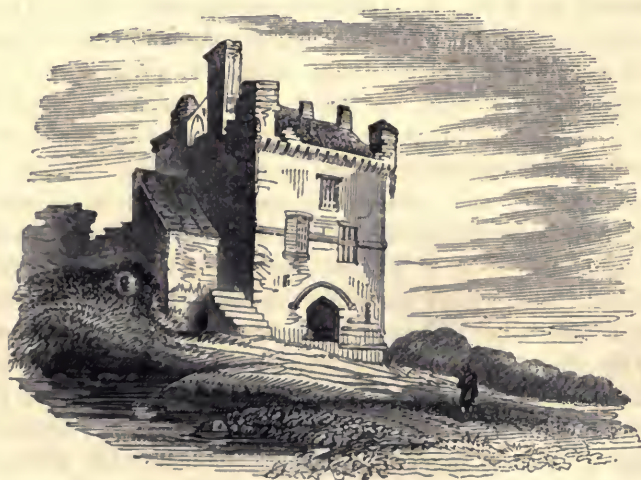
November.—This month, the John pit, Low Felling colliery, was discovered to be on fire, near to a steam engine placed down the pit. Three weeks were spent in vigorous exertions by means of a fire engine; yet this became so expensive, that in the end the pit was closed up with deals resting on strong beams. On these was placed clay to a great thickness, strongly pressed down, and above all, water to the depth of two fathoms; so that there is no doubt that the

fire was soon extinguished. The pits have since been re-opened, and the regular operations of the colliery resumed.—*Mackenzie & Ross' Dur.*

1830 (Nov. 2).—Died, at the house of his friend Richard Wilson, esq., at Bildeston, Suffolk, aged 77, Edward Rotheram, esq., a captain in the royal navy, and C. B. Captain Rotheram was a son of the late John Rotheram, M.D., of Newcastle upon Tyne, a gentleman of high estimation both as a medical practitioner, and a person of general science. He was born at Hexham, where his father lived many years senior physician of the Infirmary. His elder brother John studied physic, &c. under the celebrated Linnæus, at Upsal, and died professor of natural philosophy in the University of St. Andrews, about the year 1805. Mr. Edward Rotheram was early instructed in mathematical learning by his father and the late Dr. Hutton. He acquired practical navigation in the same school which bred our immortal circumnavigator Cook. Leaving the coal trade, and entering the Navy, he served during the whole of the American war, chiefly in the squadron commanded by admiral Barrington; obtained a lieutenant's commission April 19, 1783, and was the senior officer of that rank on board the *Culloden* 74, in the battle of June 1, 1794; an event that led to his further promotion. In 1795 we find him commanding the *Camel* store-ship, on the Mediterranean station; and subsequently the *Hawk* sloop of war, and *Lapwing* frigate, at the Leeward Islands. His post commission bore date August 27, 1800. In the unparalleled battle of Trafalgar, vice-admiral Collingwood's gallantry was most ably seconded by captain Rotheram, who commanded the *Royal Sovereign*, a first-rate, bearing the flag of that excellent officer, by whom he was subsequently appointed to the *Bellerophon* 74, as successor to captain John Cooke, who had fallen in the conflict. The severe loss sustained by the *Royal Sovereign* is the best proof of the share she had in the defeat of the combined fleets. Her loss was 47 killed and 94 wounded; and at the close of the battle, not a spar was left standing except the tottering foremast, which went overboard in the ensuing gale. A heavy shower of musquetry had nearly swept the quarter deck, when some of his officers requested captain Rotheram not to expose himself so much to the enemy's small-arm men by wearing his epaulettes and a gold-lace hat. "Let me alone, (he replied) I have always fought in a cocked hat, and always will." Captain Rotheram bore lord Nelson's banner as a K.B. at the funeral of that great chieftain; and was himself nominated a C. B. in 1815. Fifteen months previous to his death, on the recommendation of his late majesty William IV., when lord high admiral, he was appointed to an extra captaincy of

Greenwich hospital. He was a brave officer, and universally respected.—*Gent's. Mag.*

1830 (Nov. 8).—Mr. William Woodman, of Morpeth, caused some excavations to be made on the Ha'-Hill, near the castle of Morpeth, when some carved stones were dug up. These were capitals of columns and some of the ornamented stones of a Norman arch, similar to some now built up in a door-way of the gate-house; all of them, probably, belonging to some building finally destroyed during the siege in 1644. On the 23rd of December following, Mr. Woodman made some further search on this hill. At the western extremity of which he found the remains of a *cairn*. It consisted of a quantity of stones piled together; and appeared to have been one of the rudest description. On the soil beneath the stones, was a thin layer of very fine black earth; and, amongst it, a few small fragments of bones.—*Hodgson's Northd.*



MORPETH CASTLE (1816).

November 11.—Darlington was first lighted with gas.—*Local Papers.*

November 12.—Died, in the parish of Bywell, St. Peter, Northumberland, Mr. George Stobart, aged 101 years.—*Ibid.*

November 28.—About six o'clock in the evening of this day (Sunday), some wicked incendiaries set fire to a barn, in the occupation of Mr. Hodgson, butcher, at Swallwell, in the county of Durham, by which it was entirely destroyed. The magistrates of the county offered a reward of 300 guineas for the apprehension of the offender or offenders.—*Ibid.*

1831 (Jan. 1).—An elegant chain bridge thrown across the Tees about a furlong above Stockton, by the Stockton and Darlington railway company, to form a continuation of the line down to Middlesborough, was opened. This bridge was erected by captain Brown, R. N. The foundation stone was laid on the 18th July, 1829. The bridge is two hundred and seventy four feet long, twenty five broad, and sixty in height, and is calculated to sustain a weight of 150 tons. On the day of opening an immense entire coal, weighing upwards of two tons, was sent down by this railway, to Middlesborough, from the Black boy colliery, to be shipped for the London market; and which, when broken, was calculated to make two London chaldrons. The main line was completed as a double railway in the year 1832.—*Guide to Croft, &c.*

Jan. 3.—Died, at the High Felling, near Newcastle, Ruth, widow of Mr. William Hays, of that place, cooper, aged 108 years. She retained her faculties until within two days of her death, and lived and died in the same house in which she was born.—*Local Papers.*



1



2

January 5.—There was presented to the Society of Antiquaries, of Newcastle upon Tyne, an inscribed Roman stone (1) set up by the "sixth legion, victorious, pious and happy," and a mutilated Roman figure. At another period was given to the same Society, the flooring brick (2) represented in the margin, bearing the number of the legion at the station of CORSTOPTVM, or Corbridge, where all of these were found.—*Arch. Æliana, &c.*

January 9.—The beautiful church of Warkworth, in Northumberland, was discovered to be on fire, and its destruction was providentially prevented by the combined and prompt exertions of the inhabitants. The flues had been heated three days previously, which rendered some wood near them exceedingly susceptible of ignition, and it was discovered that a pew, under which one of the flues passed, was in flames.—*Gent's Mag.*

January 10.—The right hon. lord Ossulston, attained his 21st year, on which occasion, instead of the usual general festivities, his lordship decided upon distributing charity to the necessitous poor, on the extensive estates of the earl of Tankerville, which was done munificently. Blankets, clothing, coals, and a donation in money, were distributed to each necessitous family. Thus, at that inclement

season of the year, the poor at Chillingham, Wooler and Doddington, in various ways received a kind and liberal benefaction, as did also the poor of Embleton and Wark, in donations of money. His lordship's numerous labourers at Chillingham, were, upon the occasion, regaled with beef and ale, for which purpose, three of the wild cattle were shot, a portion of which, as well as furnishing the labourers' dinner, was distributed to every poor family in the parish. There was also a dinner provided for the domestics of Chillingham castle on the occasion, at which hilarity and satisfaction prevailed.—*Local Papers.*

1831 (Jan. 22).—A melancholy accident happened at Messrs. Stephenson and co's. steam engine manufactory, in South-street, Newcastle. Some of the workman had been employed in weighing the materials of an engine about to be sent away, and on taking down the scales from a pair of sheer legs, the latter fell over, and struck Mr. John Stephenson (brother to the celebrated engineer) with such force against a vice, that his head was fractured, and he died instantly. Verdict, accidental death. The deceased was 42 years of age, and left a widow and four children. Nearly 200 of his friends and the workmen of the manufactory attended his funeral.—*Ibid.*

January 28.—A very intense frost set in at Newcastle and the neighbourhood, which continued until Tuesday, February the first, when a heavy snow storm commenced, accompanied by a tremendous gale of wind from the S. E., which covered the country with snow to the mean depth of three feet. The mail coach from London to Edinburgh could get no further than Morpeth on the following morning, the road north of that place being completely blocked up, and in many places from four to six yards deep, but the bags were forwarded on horseback. The coaches from Newcastle to Morpeth had great difficulty in reaching their destination on the Tuesday evening. The Alnwick coaches did not set off from Newcastle on the Wednesday, owing to the drifted state of the roads. The coaches from the south and the west, although considerably delayed, were able, with the aid of additional horses, to get through. Many of the carriers from the country could not reach Newcastle. Early on the Wednesday morning, the Young Husband, London trader, of Newcastle, captain Walker,* was totally lost with all her crew, off Seaton rocks, about a mile north of Alnmouth. A considerable quantity of goods and spirits were washed on shore. February the

* Captain Walker's body, together with two of the crew, were cast on shore near to where the vessel was wrecked, and interred at Lesbury, attended by his friends. He was a native of Newcastle, in his 37th year, and very highly respected.

4th, as Richard Watson and James Walton, two miners, were returning from work on the Teesdale side of the mountains to Chapel, on reaching the first house Watson urged his companion to go no further, but the latter persisted in going forward to the next house at any rate, which was about a mile farther. Before however they had got half that distance, Walton was quite exhausted, and Watson struggled with him, carrying him at last upon his back, until he came near the house, when fearing they would both be lost, he was under the necessity of leaving him in the snow whilst he endeavoured to reach the house. Having procured assistance, he returned to his comrade, who was still alive, but they had scarcely carried him into the house before he expired. The Union coach from Newcastle to Edinburgh, was unable to get further than Haggerston, the hospitable mansion of lady Haggerston, who most kindly sent to inform the passengers and guard, that her house and table were at their service till the storm abated, and they were able to proceed on their journey. The Wellington coach from Newcastle to Edinburgh was buried in a snow wreath for several days in the vicinity of Millfield, and the Chevy chase post coach was detained for eight days near Jedburgh. Thomas Simpson, gamekeeper to sir Edward Blackett, bart., was lost in the storm on Tuesday, February the first. He left Hexham in the afternoon for Matfen, and had got near to Stagshaw Bank, where his body was found on Wednesday the 9th. Adam Riddell, a shepherd of Elsdon, also lost his life during the storm. February the 4th, snow, sleet, and hail, fell with little intermission during the whole day, accompanied by a very high wind, and the frost continued with great intensity till Monday the 7th, when a thaw succeeded. The sudden melting of the snow, aided by a strong south west wind, caused the Tyne and its tributary streams to rise to an unusual height. On the 9th the whole of the low ground in the vicinity of Dunston was under water; the houses of the poor inhabitants were completely inundated, many of them up to the roofs, and the loss sustained was very great. Mr. Ramsay, of Darwent-haugh, lost about 50 casks of salamoniac, and a kiln of fire bricks, which was just fired, and other property to a considerable amount. The whole of the houses on the flats from Newburn downwards, were under water, and much damage done; large quantities of hay, household furniture, &c., were seen floating down the river. The Quay and many other of the lower parts of Newcastle, were overflowed, and almost all the cellars on the Quay and in the Close were filled with water. Mr. Jabez Hood's cellars were filled with water which reached within a few feet of the Close. At Messrs. Cookson's foundry in this street, the men were laid off work

in consequence, and the works of other manufactories were more or less impeded. Great destruction was done among the vessels at Shields, about 50 vessels were driven from their moorings, and a ballast keel, with an old man on board, was carried out to sea and was fallen in with on the following day, upwards of twenty miles from the land, by a vessel belonging to Sunderland, when the poor man was rescued from his perilous situation and brought into Sunderland. On the 9th, Mr. Thomas Thompson, of Newcastle, organist, had a very narrow escape from being drowned, as he was proceeding from the Sandhill to the Quay in a Shield's vehicle. The horse being blind, on getting amongst the water which extended across the Quay, took fright, and began to plunge, and the driver lost his command over him; luckily a bolt gave way, and detached the carriage from the shafts, by which the lives of both were saved, as the horse ran forward, plunged into the river, and was immediately out of sight. During this snow storm, upwards of twenty ships were wrecked between Shields and Blyth, on the coast of Northumberland.—*Local Papers.*

1831 (Jan. 29).—The first number of a newspaper entitled the "Sunderland and Durham General Shipping Gazette and Mercantile Advertiser," was published at Sunderland by William Gracie. It was discontinued after an existence of a few months.—*Ibid.*

The same day, the petitions agreed to at a public meeting of the inhabitants of South Shields, praying the legislator to include, in a measure of parliamentary reform, a grant to that town of the important privilege of returning its own representatives, having received 2,300 signatures, a deputation waited on sir M. W. Ridley, bart., and John Hodgson, esq., the members for Newcastle, on the above day, with a petition to the House of Commons, for presentation by them, agreeably to the resolutions of the meeting; the petition to the House of Lords was presented by the marquis of Cleveland.—*Ibid.*

This month, the town of Hexham was first lighted and watched.—*Ibid.*

A fire was discovered in the church at Wallsend, in Northumberland, but by timely assistance it was extinguished after one pew was burnt. This fire had originated in the flue.—*Ibid.*

February 10.—The cut which had been some time in progress to improve the navigation of the river Tees was opened in due form. About two o'clock a large party of the Tees navigation company, accompanied by a numerous body of friends, proceeded down the river in a steam boat, when the brig Arno was towed through the cut, preceded by a number of steam boats, &c., amidst loud rejoicings, and in the presence of a great concourse of spectators, who lined the

banks of the river. On quitting the vessels, the company went in procession to the town-hall, preceded by a band of music, and in the evening a party of upwards of 100 gentlemen celebrated the event by a dinner at the Assembly rooms. Leonard Raisbeck, esq., presided, supported on his right by lord Falkland, M. Fowler, esq., colonel Grey, sir Cuthbert Sharp, and W. W. Jackson, esq., and on his left by Thomas Meynell, esq., W. T. Salvin, esq., rev. John Brewster, John Cartwright, esq., the vicar of Norton, J. Favell, esq., and William Skinner, jun., esq., G. W. Todd, esq., officiating as vice chairman. This new cut formed a new channel for the river, commencing near Blue house Point (about a mile from Stockton) on the west, and terminating near Newport on the east, being in length about three quarters of a mile, its depth sixteen feet, and its breadth 250 feet, and by it vessels are enabled to sail up to Stockton, which could not navigate the old channel.—*Local Papers*.

1831 (Feb. 22).—At a general meeting of the coal owners, ship-owners, merchants, and other persons interested in the trade of the port of Newcastle, held in the Guildhall of that town on the above day, the right worshipful Archibald Reed, esq., in the chair, it was resolved to petition both houses of Parliament for the abolition of the duty on coals exported coastwise from the river Tyne, called the duke of Richmond's shilling. In consequence of this petition, aided by the strenuous exertions of the local members of parliament, this odious and oppressive tax was repealed. It has not been levied on any vessel from the river Tyne since March 1831.—*Ibid*.

February 26.—As Mr. John Heweson and Mr. John Branford, two Primitive Methodist preachers, accompanied by a female, were passing from Bishopwearmouth along the Hetton coal company's railway, near Warden law, to escape the danger on the inclined plane, they unfortunately rushed in between the light and laden waggons by which Mr. Heweson was killed on the spot, and Mr. Branford survived a very short time. The young woman fortunately escaped unhurt. They were men of exemplary zeal and piety; one left a widow with five children, the other a widow with six children. Their funeral, which took place at Sunderland, excited great interest and sympathy, and their remains were followed to the grave by some thousands of persons.—*Ibid*.

February 26.—There was a meeting of the pitmen of the Tyne and Wear, amounting to about 8,000 or 10,000, on the Black Fell, near Chester-le-street, when they entered into resolutions to demand higher wages.—*Ibid*.

February 28.—A very handsome vessel of 600 tons burthen, called the "Duke of Northumberland," was launched from Mr. Smith's

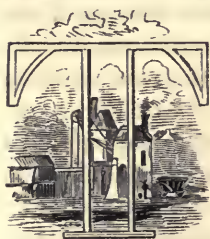
dock, at St. Peter's, near Newcastle. She was to supply the place of the "George Green," which had been built in the same yard in 1829, for the same company of London gentlemen, but which was lost on her passage from the Tyne to London.—*Local Papers.*

1831 (Feb. 28).—On this day (Monday), Thomas Clarke was executed on the New Drop in front of the county courts at Durham, for the murder of Mary Ann Westhorpe, his fellow servant, at Hallgarth water-mill, near Durham, on the afternoon of Sunday the 8th of August, 1830, while their master and mistress were from home. His trial commenced at the city of Durham before Mr. Justice Littledale on the 25th of February, and before eight o'clock on the morning, such was the extraordinary excitement of the inhabitants of that city and neighbourhood, that the court was immediately filled almost to suffocation. The examination of the witnesses did not conclude until nearly ten o'clock at night, when the judge observed, that at that late hour he should not sum up the evidence unless the jury particularly wished it. The jury said they did not wish it. His lordship then intimated, that they must be all kept together till the next morning, and hold no conversation with any on the subject of this trial. The court was then adjourned till nine o'clock on the following morning. The jury were attended by the under sheriff and an officer to Mrs. Best's, the Half Moon inn, where they had a room set apart for themselves. A little after nine o'clock the next morning, Mr. Justice Littledale entered the court, and almost immediately afterwards proceeded to sum up the evidence with great minuteness and impartiality. The jury retired at a quarter past twelve o'clock; and after an absence of twenty-five minutes, returned with a verdict of GUILTY. The judge then placed the black cap on his head, and on the prisoner being asked what he had to say why sentence of death should not be passed upon him, he simply replied—"I am innocent of the crime." His lordship then addressed the prisoner, and afterwards passed sentence of death upon him in the usual terms ordering him to be executed on the Monday, and his body to be afterwards given to the surgeons for dissection. On the Monday morning an immense concourse of people had assembled in front of the county courts to witness the execution of this unfortunate young man. The rev. Mr. Wheeler attended him during the greatest part of the forenoon, and joined him in prayer. The prisoner, at intervals, was much agitated and wept bitterly, but made no confession of his guilt. At a quarter past twelve o'clock, the criminal was brought out to the scaffold, dressed in a black coat, light waistcoat and brown trowsers, and held a white handkerchief in his hand. He was supported by the rev. Mr. Wheeler, and Mr. A. Hopton, and was attended by the under sheriff and some of his officers

and the governor of the gaol. When he ascended the drop, he stood very firm and addressed the assembled multitude in the following words:—*Gentlemen, I am innocent—I am going to suffer for another man's crime!*" The cap was immediately afterwards drawn over his face—the drop fell—and this world closed upon him for ever. After the body had been suspended for nearly an hour, it was taken down, and conveyed in a shell to the Durham Infirmary for dissection. His age was stated in the calendar at 19 years. His victim was about the same age.—*Local Rec.*

1831 (Feb).—Died, in the higher part of Gateshead, from the bite of a mad dog, John Henry Johnson, aged 14. During the Friday night succeeding his interment, the relatives of the deceased, who it appears had watched his grave, in the chapel burying ground, since he was buried, saw a man come over the yard-wall from the fields, and go towards the grave. One of them went up to him, and the resurrectionist immediately fired a pistol at him and ran off. The ball grazed his breast, but he was no worse. There were two men in company, but one of them remained in the field.—*Gatesh. Intel.*

March 12.—An immense number of pitmen, belonging to the collieries on the Tyne and Wear, assembled together on the Black Fell, in the county of Durham, for the purpose of entering into resolutions, and considering the means of obtaining from their employers an increase of wages.—*Local Papers.*



THE under-ground workmen of forty-seven collieries on the Tyne and Wear, held a meeting on the town-moor, Newcastle, on the 27th of the same month, to take measures for obtaining some improvement in their condition. During the forenoon, great numbers passed through the town in procession, apparently without exciting the least uneasiness or alarm among the inhabitants; and

it was calculated that nearly 20,000 were assembled by one o'clock at the place of rendezvous. Several persons addressed the meeting, and detailed in homely but energetic language, the grievances under which they considered themselves to labour. These did not appear to be so much connected with the prices of work, as with some objectionable parts of the bond of service, the chief of which were the power of the owners to lay the men idle on the occurrence of the most trifling accident to the pits, to the engines, or even to the waggon rail-roads, after which their wages are discontinued for three days; their subjection to the caprice of the viewers and agents, not only for a continuance of work, but even for shelter for their wives and families, as they are liable to be turned out of their houses, either

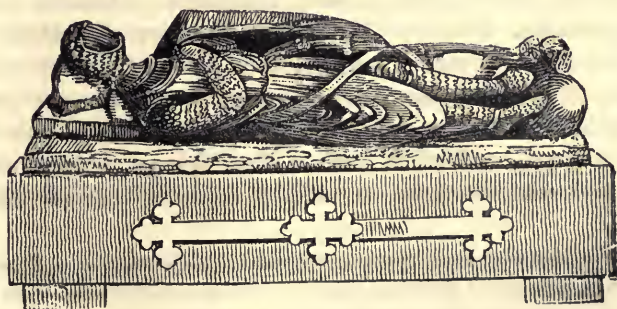
on the completion, or on the non-fulfilment of the articles of the bond, arising from mutual disagreement; the obligation they are under to remain idle at Christmas, without any compensation; and the length of time boys are immured in the collieries, to the destruction of health, and of almost every chance of education or moral improvement. During the course of the proceedings, it was resolved to petition parliament; to subscribe sixpence each to send deputies to London with the petitions; to continue to work, unbound, after their period of service had expired, if the owners would allow them—otherwise to cease working, and claim parish relief or magisterial interference, until their remonstrances were attended to, and the bond altered accordingly; that the men of every colliery should meet twice a week; that each pit should send a delegate to form a general committee for carrying the resolutions into effect; that no man should in future, buy meat, drink, or candles, from any one connected with the collieries; and that the thanks of the meeting should be given to the right worshipful Archibald Reed, esq., mayor, of Newcastle, (who appeared in the midst of the assembly for a few minutes, and advised the leaders to inculcate order and peace as the surest means of obtaining justice), for the friendly advice he had given them, and for kindly offering to be the medium of communication between them and their employers, as far as he could conveniently. These resolutions were severally put and carried unanimously, by a show of hands, which, from the immense number held up, had a very great effect. The whole proceedings were conducted without the least disturbance, and the parties returned to their homes in the afternoon in good order.—*Local Papers.*

1831 (March).—The foundation stone of a chapel belonging to the established church was laid at Seaton Carew, in the county of Durham.—*Ibid.*

April 4.—Monday, another large meeting of pitmen was held at Shaden's hill, Black Fell, on which occasion immense numbers of them marched through Gateshead in military order, with banners flying, inscribed with appropriate mottos. This meeting ended, like those preceding it, without coming to any determination. The following are the heads of what they demanded:—1. Not to be turned out of their houses at the expiration of their hiring, according to their bond, but to let the law have its regular process. 2, To have eleven days per fortnight, at three shillings per day, which would leave about twenty nine shillings, after every deduction. 3, The time of working to be henceforth twelve hours per day. 4. Fines for laid-out corves to be only the loss of the price of the corf; and corves deficient in measure to be sent out at the crane. 5, Corves to be

adjusted when thought to be too large. 6, The annual binding to be at the usual time. The annual period of servitude of the colliers of the Tyne and the Wear having expired on the 5th of April, most of them refused to enter into fresh engagements with their employers until the differences between them were adjusted. The latter it was said, had agreed that the boys should in future work only twelve hours a day, and that the workmen should be paid their wages in money, and have power to buy goods where they pleased; but the men continued to insist upon other conditions. On the following day (Wednesday), great numbers of them met at the Black-fell, with a hope that some further arrangement would be proposed by the coal-owners; but as none were forthcoming, they dispersed, with a resolution not to return to work on the former terms. In the meantime parties of military had been placed in readiness to assist the civil power in preserving the peace, and several Northumberland magistrates, wholly unconnected with the collieries, offered themselves as mediators between the coal-owners and the pitmen. The magistrates announced that they would "be ready to meet the parties at the Moot-hall, in Newcastle, on Monday the 11th of April," which was accordingly done, but, unfortunately, they failed in their well-intentioned efforts.—*Local Papers.*

1831 (April 5).—A very handsome silver cup was presented to Mr. Henry Ingledew, solicitor, by a body of the parishioners of St. Nicholas, in Newcastle. On one side of the cup a beautiful representation of the steeple of St Nicholas' church is engraved, and on the other the following inscription, viz:—"Presented to Henry Ingledew, esquire, scrivener and solicitor, one of the church-wardens of the parish of St. Nicholas, in the town and county of Newcastle upon Tyne, by a portion of the parishioners, in testimony of the sense entertained of his assiduous and indefatigable attention to, and faithful discharge of, the various duties of the office; for the efficient and excellent manner in which he has mainly contributed to ascertain the privileges, and



MONUMENTAL EFFIGIES IN ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH.

establish, on a firm basis, the rights and immunities of the church ; and for his uniform attention to all matters connected with its interests. Easter Tuesday, 5th April, 1831." The cup was presented on behalf of the subscribers, by Mr. John Rawling Wilson, who was the senior member of the "Four and Twenty," of St. Nicholas' parish.—*Local Papers*.

1831 (April 11).—A mendicity society commenced its operations in Newcastle. This charity was established as a check to the systematic imposture practised by the idle and dissolute upon the indiscriminately benevolent ; it is of no less service as a public institution in affording relief to the really destitute. The office of the society is situate in Castle-street ; and the arduous duties to be performed have been so efficiently executed, that the thanks of the authorities of the town have been given to those employed. The number of distressed individuals who have been relieved with food and lodgings, to the present time (1844), averages about 4,000 annually.—*Soc. Rep.*

April 12.—Being the day appointed for the opening of the suspension bridge over the river Tyne, at Scotswood, about four miles west of Newcastle, the morning was ushered in by peals of bells from the churches of that town. At twelve o'clock Archibald Reed, esq., mayor, and John Hodgson, esq., M. P., for Newcastle, met the committee of management, the proprietors and various other friends of the undertaking at the Assembly-rooms, from whence, after a short time, on a signal being given from the guns of the castle, the procession set forward in the following manner, viz :—full band of music ; banners ; banner of the bridge with the motto "Cælo pendit iter, ripas vinxere catenæ ;" town marshal on horseback ; sword bearer* on horseback ; the architect of the bridge, (Mr. Green) on horseback ; the carriage and four of the mayor of Newcastle ; the carriage and four of the sheriff of Northumberland (George Silvertop, esq.) ; the carriage and four of John Hodgson, esq., M. P., the carriage of Mrs. Hodgson ; four carriages and four, containing the committee of management, viz :—Humble Lamb, Matthew Wheatley, George Hepple Ramsay, Matthias W. Dunn, Matthew Wheatley, jun., John Mulcaster, George Thomas Dunn, Joseph C. Lamb, esquires, and Mr. Thomas Grieveson, the honorary secretary ; the carriage and four of lord Decies ; the carriage and four of Humble Lamb, esq. ; the royal mail-coach with a flag flying ; a long train of carriages followed (between 80 and 90), and the rear was closed by

* Mr. John Mowbray, merchant-adventurer, and boothman, had this day, previous to the procession, been elected sword-bearer of the corporation of Newcastle, in the room of Mr. John Bradshaw, who died very suddenly on the morning of the 4th of April, 1831.

a great number of gentlemen on horseback. On the procession entering on the bridge, by a precaution which was afterwards proved to have been unnecessary, the carriages passed over at a considerable distance asunder; and when the carriage of the rector of Ryton (the rev. Charles Thorp), approached the centre, it was stopped, and the blessing of Heaven on that bold and important work of man was most reverently and feelingly invoked by that reverend and respected individual. Previous to its entrance on the bridge, the procession was joined by Charles J. Clavering, esq., the high sheriff of the county of Durham, who escorted and accompanied it on horseback during its progress through his county. From the bridge the procession moved up the road to Blaydon, about a mile distance, then returned by the old turnpike road to Swalwell, from whence it again returned to the suspension bridge, which it again passed over in closer order than before. But the strength of the bridge was soon after put to a much severer test, for as soon as the procession had passed over (no person being allowed to go on until the procession had returned) the gates being opened, the crowds of people who had been previously assembled at each end, rushed, with impetuosity, on to the bridge, in the centre of which they were soon collected into so dense a mass as to be incapable of moving, and putting the bridge to a severe trial. No fewer than 3,000 persons were collected between the points of suspension, making, with those on the ends, a crowd of between 5,000 and 6,000 persons. After repassing the bridge, the procession returned in the same order to the Assembly-rooms, where it arrived about four o'clock, amidst the ringing of bells and other demonstrations of rejoicing. Soon after five o'clock, the committee, subscribers, and other friends of the undertaking sat down to an elegant dinner, and spent the evening with the utmost conviviality. Many appropriate toasts were drunk. During the evening Mr. Hodgson, on behalf of the proprietors, presented the architect, Mr. Green, with an elegantly formed silver claret jug, on which was engraved a view of the bridge, and an appropriate inscription. The bridge is 630 feet in length, the distance between the two points of suspension being 370 feet, with two half arcs of 230 feet each; the road-way rises in the centre about eight feet, causing the bridge to assume a curved line of a graceful and pleasing effect; the road-way is above 20 feet, and the carriage-way seventeen and a half feet. July 21st, 1829, the first freight of stones for the masonry of this

* "Presented to John Green, architect, by the Scotswood Bridge Company, in testimony of their sense of the talent and skill displayed by him in designing and executing the bridge over the Tyne, at Scotswood, April 12th, 1831."

bridge was conveyed from Lawson-main quarry in a keel which was highly decorated with colours; and immediately on being delivered, the first stone in the footings of the land abutments on the south side was placed on its bed, under the direction of the architect, and in the presence of Messrs. Grace and Ramsay, two of the committee of the undertaking. Messrs. Welsh and Son were the contractors for the mason work. The coffer dam of the north pier was commenced in September the same year, and the foundation stone was laid on the 9th of February, 1830. The first chain was suspended across the river on the 23rd of February, 1831, and the last (the fourth), on the 5th of March.—*Local Papers.*

1831 (April 14).—An elegant silver tripod candelabrum, value 150 guineas, with branches for the lights, richly chased, was presented by the parishioners of Gateshead, to the rev. John Collinson, rector of that parish, “as a token of their sincere and affectionate regard, and of their sense of his virtue and benevolence; and also as a testimonial of his conduct, by the zealous and assiduous discharge of his duties as their minister, for the period of 21 years.” The presentation took place at a public dinner.—*Ibid.*

April 15.—Died, at Killingworth, near Newcastle, in the 86th year of her age, Mrs. Elizabeth Gascoigne. Though the great north road is not three miles distant from Killingworth, she never saw it in her life; she was the youngest of a large family, and died in the same part of the house and in the same bed in which she was born. She was the mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, to a numerous progeny. Upwards of one hundred years before, Mr. Nathaniel Punshon granted the use of the cottage to her mother for her life.—*Ibid.*



NEAR SCOTSWOOD.

CHAPTER IV.



BODY of from 1,200 to 1,500 pitmen visited the collieries in the neighbourhood of Blyth and Bedlington, on the 18th of April, 1831, where they laid the pits off work, threatening to set fire to them if their orders were not complied with. At Bedlington Glebe pit they tore the corves to pieces, threw them into the shaft, and did considerable damage to the machinery, and at Netherton they were only prevented from committing similar acts of violence by being treated with a quantity of ale. They also emptied the larder and cellar of the manager of Cowpen colliery. On the following morning a large body of men went to Jesmond-dean colliery, near Newcastle, belonging to R. B. Sanderson, esq., where they did considerable injury to the machinery, throwing it down the pit, and endangering the lives of some workmen who were in the mine. On the Wear they had also been very violent, threatening to murder the horse-keepers if they went down the pit to attend the horses. A great number of special constables were sworn in to protect property, and the deputy-lieutenant issued an order calling out the Northumberland and Newcastle yeomanry. Part of the 82nd regiment of foot, stationed at Sunderland barracks, marched from thence to the neighbourhood of Hetton, to remain there during the unsettled state of the workmen belonging to the collieries of that district. A detachment of eighty marines and three subalterns, under the command of major Mitchell, sailed from Portsmouth for the Tyne, on account of the disturbances among the colliers. The vessel, towed by a steamer, sailed in less than an hour after the orders were received.—*Local Papers.*

April 21.—A large meeting of the pitmen of the Tyne and Wear

was held at Jarrow, which was attended by the men belonging to forty-nine collieries, each bearing a banner inscribed with the name of the colliery, and various mottoes. The meeting continued for a considerable time, and, after addresses from several speakers, who exhorted them all to conduct themselves orderly and keep the peace, they resolved unanimously to adhere to their former resolutions. The meeting then broke up, and the parties returned peaceably to their homes.—*Local Papers*.

1831 (April).—It was in contemplation to institute a college at Newcastle-upon-Tyne to afford the sons of merchants and others of the middle class of society, suitable instruction in the higher departments of a liberal education.—*Gent's Mag*.

May.—This month, some workmen employed in taking down the premises in the High Bridge, Newcastle, formerly the poultry market, but latterly occupied as a soup kitchen, for the purpose of erecting a public house, in excavating the earth for the purpose of making a cellar, the remains of a Gothic arch was discovered, and amongst the rubbish some very large stones were found, and three fragments of dressed stone, which appeared to have formed part of a church or a chapel window. In corroboration of this, the workmen in the August following, whilst digging in order to form a conduit between the house and the common sewer, a part of a skull and several human bones were turned up, together with some pieces of wood, having the appearance of coffin-wood in decay.—*Local Papers*.

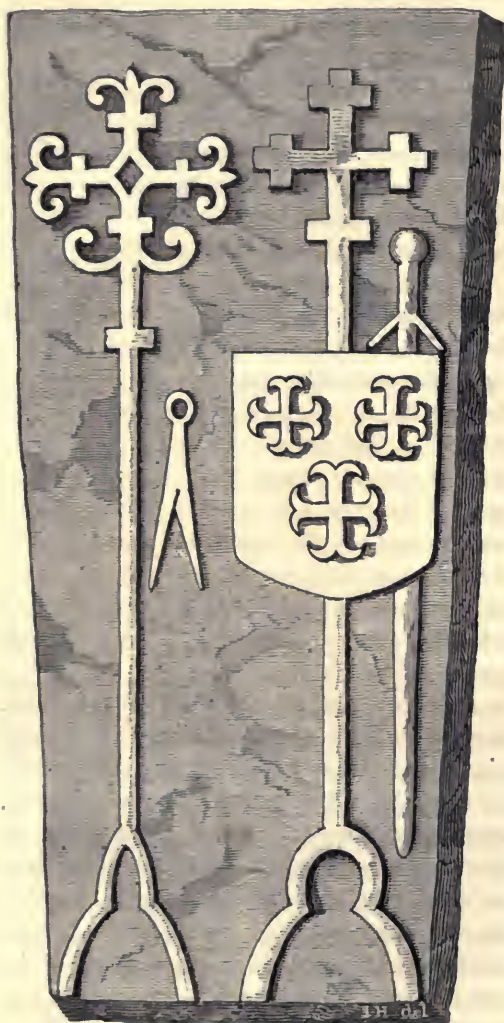
May 4.—The right worshipful Archibald Reed, esq., mayor of Newcastle, gave an elegant entertainment at the mansion-house to sir Matthew White Ridley, bart., and John Hodgson, esq., the representatives of Newcastle, as a compliment to them, and commemorative of their successful efforts in obtaining the repeal of that very obnoxious tax on the coal of the river Tyne, known by the name of "The Richmond Shilling." Exclusive of the members of the common council, a large party of gentlemen were invited (between seventy and eighty were present) to celebrate the day. In the course of the evening several appropriate and interesting addresses were elicited by the toasts, particularly that which was made by sir M. W. Ridley, in which the hon. baronet described the unwearied devotedness of his late colleague (Mr. Ellison) and himself to obtain from all former administrations, during the preceding twenty years, the repeal of that unjust and oppressive tax, the abolition of which they were that day met to celebrate, at a superb banquet. Nothing could exceed the hilarity and good humour which animated all parties; and shortly after ten o'clock the company separated, highly gratified with the splendid hospitality of the worthy chief magistrate.—

1831 (May 5).—A very large meeting of the pitmen of the Tyne and the Wear, took place at the Black Fell, near Chester-le-street, in the county of Durham, where they were met by the marquis of Londonderry, accompanied by a military escort. His lordship addressed the men at considerable length, requesting them to disperse, and he would meet their delegates at Newcastle, which they immediately acceded to. A meeting in consequence took place at the Coal Trade office, Westgate street, in Newcastle, but without the desired effect. Another meeting took place on the following day, but they still held out against the terms offered them by the owners, and the collieries (with the exception of two or three which had been partially at work for a few days under the protection of the military), were laid completely idle. From the long strike of the pitmen the want of coals at this time was very severely felt by the manufacturers and inhabitants of the different towns. For some time detachments of regulars, horse and foot, assisted by parties of colonel Bell's cavalry and dismounted troop, were stationed in the neighbourhood of Wallsend; sentries constantly patrolled at certain places for the protection of the engines and premises, and the men who were at work; during the night, squadrons of cavalry scoured the country in various directions, as the idle men were at this time showing a very turbulent disposition, and rather than accede to the terms offered, many of them with their wives and children were wandering about Northumberland and Durham begging.—*Local Papers.*

There was likely to be a serious riot at South Shields colliery, in consequence of an attempt to prevent the bound men from going to their work, which was only put down by the timely interference of Mr. Fairles, a magistrate of the place, and a party of marines. The next morning, an immense number of pitmen congregated at Hebburn colliery, and threw down the shaft all the corves, rolleys, and loose materials, to the great terror of the men below. Further damage was prevented by the appearance of the military. Four troops of colonel Bell's cavalry were dismissed, in consequence of the arrival at Newcastle of two troops of the 3d dragoons. About the middle of June, the pitmen generally resumed their labours.—*Ibid.*

May 17.—Tradition having immemorially pointed out a plot of ground on the south side of Shaftoe-crag, Northumberland, as the site of the chapel-yard, and chapel of East Shaftoe; a party of workmen were employed by lady Decies, on the above day, to dig among its ruins, with the hope of finding on its floor some monumental device or inscription; or in the earth below the floor some evidence of the interment of human bodies. At first they were directed to make a cast 6 feet broad, from south to north, in front

of the line in which it was supposed the rails before the altar might have run. At about 4 feet deep, and in the middle of the trench,



a course of thick flag-stones with holes in them for fixing the posts of a wicket in, evidently marked the spot along which the rails had run; and within it, at the north-east corner of the building, and at about three feet from the surface, and about ten inches above the flagging for the altar-rails, the workmen came to a sandstone slab 6 feet 3 inches long, 3 feet broad at the head, 2 feet 5 inches at the foot, 6 inches thick, and bearing devices as represented in the wood-cut in the margin. "These," says the rev. John Hodgson (who was present during the exploration), "I apprehend are funeral symbols of a warrior and his wife—the shears and left hand cross being emblematic of the lady;

and the sword, shield, and other cross, of the gentleman."—*Arch. Æliana*.

1831 (May 20).—As a coble containing six pilots was going out of Sunderland harbour to a light vessel in the offing, it was struck by a heavy sea and upset, and five of the men, viz:—James Jones, Abraham Jones, John Wardle, William Brown, and Robert Appleby, were drowned. The individual saved, was washed near to the north pier, from whence a line was thrown, and he was hauled upon the

quay. Three of the bodies, with the father of James Jones's widow, who died on the same day, were interred on the Wednesday following. They were all carried in one funeral procession, which deeply affected the vast concourse of spectators.—*Local Papers*.

1831.—This year, the south wall of the ancient castle of Thirlwall, Northumberland, fell into the river Tipalt, which passes below its elevated site.—*Hodgson's Northd.*



THIRLWALL CASTLE (1836).

May 24.—Died, at Jarrow, in the county of Durham in her 107th year, Margaret Fenwick. She retained her faculties unimpaired to the last. She was removed from Gateshead in 1774, and had received from the township of Westgate, during the period of fifty-seven years, no less a sum than £450.—*Gent's Mag.*

May 27.—Was opened the large tomb in the Galilee of Durham cathedral, in which such of the bones of the venerable Bede, as were in possession of the monks of Durham, were buried at the reformation. There were present, William Stephen Gilly, M. A., sub-dean; Thomas Gisborne, M. A., residentiary; James Raine, M. A., librarian; William Jobling, mason; Francis Bulmer; Geo. Heron; Ralph Stockley; Robert Carr; and Henry Carr. Two thin copper coins of the Hanseatic towns, (or, as they are generally denominated, abbey-pieces,) were found in the soil near the surface; and below, at the depth of about three feet, disposed in a grave of nearly six feet

in length, the following human bones, viz:—The palvarium, tolerably perfect, consisting of the os frontis and ossa parietalia; the ossa temporalia and portions of the bones of the basis of the skull; the lower jaw bone, containing no teeth, their sockets ossified, affording the idea of an aged person; a portion of two malar bones; the heads of both the humeri; the radius and ulna of one fore arm, the os humeri of the other; eight bones of the tarsi of the feet; a portion of the sternum; the thigh bones. Each of these bones was found in the relative position, it would have occupied if the body had been entire. Some portions of decayed wood and moist soft dust appeared along the whole length of the grave, remains apparently of the coffin in which the bones had been placed. A large thumb ring of iron covered with a thick coating of gold was discovered in the place which the right hand would have occupied had it been there. It appeared, however, to have been placed upon a bone, for which as it was too large, the intervening space had been filled up with coarse woollen cloth, portions of which remained. The device is a cinque foil. The ring is deposited in the library, along with the relics of St. Cuthbert, which were discovered May 17th, 1827. After a cast had been made of the skull, which was of a very strange formation, the bones were carefully deposited in a strong box of oak covered with lead, together with a record upon parchment of the above particulars, and were carefully re-interred, and the massive superincumbent altar tomb of blue marble was replaced on the following day. A while afterwards was cut in bold letters on the summit of the tomb, the old monkish verse:—

“HAC SVNT IN FOSSA RÆDÆ VENERABILIS OSSA.”

The cast of the skull is in the possession of the rev. James Raine, who has given to the public a detailed account of the discovery.—*Raine's Dur. Cath. &c.*

1831 (May 28).—The first number of a newspaper, entitled the “Sunderland Herald, Shields and Stockton Observer, and General Advertiser,” was published at Sunderland, by Thomas Marwood and Co.—*Local Rec.*

June 2.—The foundation stone of a new chapel was laid at Usworth, intended as a chapel of ease to the parish church of Washington, in the county of Durham. For this undertaking the public were indebted to the laudable exertions of the rector, the rev. H. Percival, and a few of the principal proprietors of that parish, and a piece of ground for the site of the church and church yard, was presented by lord Ravensworth and partners. The style of architecture is that of the early pointed Gothic, and is from a design of Mr. Green, architect, of Newcastle, who conducted the work.—*Local Papers.*

1831 (June 13).—The rev. John Hodgson, author of the *History of Northumberland, &c. &c.*, under the direction of the Antiquarian Society of Newcastle, on this and the three following days, had a considerable number of workmen employed in dis-intering the remains of several curious Roman buildings at the famous ancient Roman city of Borcovicus or Housesteads on the line of the Roman wall in Northumberland. George Gibson, of Redesmouth, esq., owner of the place; the rev. James Raine, of Durham; the rev. Anthony Hedley, of Whitfield; Mr. Jefferson, of Hexham; Mr. Thomas Hodgson (Newcastle); and Mr. R. W. Hodgson, were also present during part of the time the excavations were carrying on. These researches laid open the southern gate-way of the fortifications of the place; two granaries and kilns contiguous to each of them for drying corn; and a very perfect Hypocaustum for heating the water of a tank, either for the purpose of a Sudatory or a kitchen. The accompanying illustration represents some of the tremendous precipices, near Borcovicus, over which the Roman wall may be seen running for miles together, bidding defiance to all but time.—*Arch. Æliana, &c.*



June 14.—The foundation stone of an addition to the parish church of Hurworth upon Tees, was laid by James N. Collyer, esq., and also on the same day, the first stone was laid by Mrs. Hartley, of a National school for 150 female children, which ceremonies were accompanied by appropriate prayers by the rev. John Greenside, curate of Hurworth, and a suitable and feeling address to the children of the place, by Mr. Collyer.—*Local Papers.*

June 20.—At the Cannongate Court-room, Edinburgh, Thomas Drummond, of Biddick, in the county of Durham, grandson and heir male of the body of James, sixth earl of Perth, commonly called

the "duke of Perth," was, by a respectable jury, unanimously served nearest and lawful heir male of his deceased great grand uncle, lord Edward Drummond, who took upon him the title of earl of Perth, and who was the youngest and last surviving son, and last heir male of the body of James, the fourth earl of Perth. The circumstances connected with this claim was said to be of the most interesting nature.—*Gent's Mag.*

1831 (June 22).—In the evening, the foundation stone of the new building of the Alnwick Scientific and Mechanical Institution was laid in the Green bat, in that town, with great ceremony. Upwards of sixty of the members and their friends assembled at the Star inn, at six o'clock, and marched in procession through the principal streets to the site of the building. Mr. George Tate, one of the members read a paper respecting the institution and its projected building, after which the paper, along with a few annual reports, and a catalogue of books then in the library, were deposited in the foundation stone. John Lambert, esq., who presented the society with the site for the building, laid the foundation stone; after which Mr. Lambert addressed the assembly at considerable length, pointing out the advantages to be derived by the members individually, and the moral and political good resulting to the community from such institutions. The procession then returned to the Star inn. The same evening the event was further celebrated by an economical public supper in the town-hall, John Carr, esq., of Bondgate-hall, in the chair. Upwards of ninety members and friends attended, when many loyal and appropriate healths were drunk.—*Local Papers.*

June 23.—Died, at Edinburgh, whither he had gone for the benefit of his health, aged 63 years, Mr. Edward Walker, printer and proprietor of the Newcastle Courant. Mr. Walker published his first paper, February the 20th 1796,—his successor and executor, Mr. Charles Henry Cook, published his first paper, No. 8163, on the 9th of July 1831.—*Ibid.*

June.—The foundation stone of the Royal Arcade in Pilgrim-street, Newcastle, was laid, and so rapidly and efficiently were the operations proceeded in, that it was opened in May the following year. The entire cost of the edifice amounts to nearly £45,000.—*Rose's Typog.*

July 3.—The poor-house at Easington, in the county of Durham, was set on fire by lightning. A little girl was killed, and two other children were struck by the electric fluid, but were not seriously hurt. A man was so severely injured, that he was not expected to recover. The house received trifling damage, as the flames were speedily got under.—*Local Papers.*

1831 (July 4).—The first stone of a new chapel at Benwell High-cross, near Newcastle, was laid by the rev. John Dodd, vicar of Newcastle, in the presence of the committee, and a considerable concourse of spectators.—*Local Papers*.

July 7.—The new and elegant chain bridge over the river Tees, at Whorlton, about three miles below Barnardcastle, erected from the designs and under the direction of Mr. Green, architect, of Newcastle, was opened for public use. Messrs. Welsh, of Gateshead, were the builders. The foundation of the north pier was laid August 19th, 1830. The main chains were thrown over the piers, and safely moored into the rock on each side, April 1st, 1831. The span between the points of suspension is 183 feet.—*Ibid*.



CHAIN BRIDGE AT WHORLTON (1831).

July 9.—An explosion of hydrogen gas took place in the King pit, near Wreckington, belonging to the owners of Birtley iron works, by which two overmen, named John Dakers and John Boggon, and a boy, lost their lives. Happily the workmen had not all descended the pit at the time, or the loss would have been great. It was supposed to have been occasioned by a door having been left open in the mine.—*Ibid*.

July 12.—Dr. Bedale, the celebrated swimmer, exhibited his powers on the Tyne, by swimming from the Ouseburn to Scotswood-bridge, a distance of about five miles, and displayed great skill both in floating and swimming. On the 9th, he exhibited on the river Wear, at Durham, and on the 14th, he displayed his powers in a similar way at Sunderland.—*Ibid*.

July 22.—For some time the seamen of the port of Newcastle had demanded, and received in many instances, an advance of wages from £3. to £4. on the London voyage. This advance induced numbers

of men to leave their ships at London, Hull, and other places, to return home, thus causing an influx of hands to a much greater extent than could possibly be employed, and many consented to work for less than £4. rather than be idle. The remainder, however, appeared to be determined that none should go under the increased rate, and adopted a system of unjustifiable intimidation. On the above day, two men were ill-treated at South Shields, for having sailed for under wages, and for some days vessels were boarded on their proceeding to sea, and their crews threatened with punishment if they did not leave their ships. July 26th, the *Atlas* was boarded by a number of men, who demanded the articles, and being refused, attempted to stop the vessel. Assistance was immediately sent from his H. M. S. *Orestes*, and sixteen of them were taken on board that vessel, and next day sent under guard to Newcastle, for examination, when they were held to bail for their appearance at the next sessions.—*Local Papers*.

1831 (July 25).—The first cargo of coals was shipped at Port Seaham, in a fine brig, the property of John Buddle, esq.; called the *Lord Seaham*, which was towed out by two steam-boats, about four o'clock, amidst the firing of cannon and the cheering of about five thousand people. The marquis of Londonderry with Mr. Buddle and several other gentlemen, were on the pier to witness the ceremony, and the attendance of fifteen steam vessels from Newcastle, Sunderland, Stockton, &c., crowded with passengers, rendered it a very gay and interesting scene.—*Ibid*.

July 27.—A boy named Butterworth, belonging the High-bridge, Newcastle, fell into the river from the Quakers-stairs, Gateshead, and was on the point of sinking, when Abraham Gun, a labourer with Mr. Charlton, grocer, Side, Newcastle, fearlessly plunged in, and rescued him from a watery grave. A subscription was immediately commenced, and sixteen shillings were given to the individual who had so boldly risked his life in the cause of humanity.—*Gates. Intell*.

This month, died, at Cantsmill, near Elsdon, in Northumberland, Mr. Robert Bolam, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers*.

July 29.—About half-past two o'clock on the morning, a bakehouse belonging to Mr. Scott, in Grindon chare, on the Quay, Newcastle, was discovered to be on fire by some pitmen going to work. In a few minutes after, the flames burst out in every part of the building. In a short time the engines of the Newcastle, Sun, and North British fire-offices, and the engines from the Barracks arrived, and by the skill with which they were applied under the direction of various individuals, the surrounding houses were preserved. The police officers and the military rendered most important assistance in extinguishing the fire, and in preserving the goods from plunder and

devastation. The premises consumed were, a bakehouse, a barber's shop, the shop of Mr. Laing, hosier, the shop of Mr. Gisburne, stationer, Mr. Scott's fruit lofts, and Mr. Frost's office. The roof of Mr. Robert Oliver, the draper's house, part of his furniture and books, and the roof of Messrs. Mackey and Smith's house was also burnt, and their stock partly injured by the water; the hosiery of Mr. Laing and the stationery of Mr. Gisburne also suffered in the removal. The public house of Mr. Teasdale suffered by the fire. The property of Messrs Oliver, Mackey and Smith, and Gisburne, were partly insured, as were the premises. The morning was fortunately calm, or great havoc might have been caused among the shipping. This conflagration laid bare a part of the ancient chapel of St. John of Jerusalem.—*Local Papers.*

1831 (July 29).—The foundation stone of a new church was laid at North Sunderland, by one of lord Crewe's trustees. Owing to the increase of the population, the accommodation given to the fisheries off that coast, the improvement of the harbour, and the quantity of lime and corn sent from thence, North Sunderland has become of much consequence to the county.—*Ibid.*

July 31.—Died, in St. John's poor house, in Newcastle, aged 68 years, William Scott, better known by the name of *Cull Billy*, one of the eccentric characters of that town, and though subject to general aberration of mind, yet he often astonished persons by his shrewd answers to questions when put to him.—*Ibid.*

August 1.—A new colliery at Waldrige fell, belonging to Messrs. Sowerby and Co., was opened for the vend of coals. A great number of the inhabitants of Chester-le-street and the neighbourhood assembled on the occasion. Shortly after twelve o'clock, the first waggon load of coals was drawn off amid the loud cheers of the populace, accompanied by a full band of music. The extent of the railway from the colliery to the river Tyne was nearly eleven miles. A party of gentlemen afterwards dined together at the Lambton arms, in Chester-le-street, in celebration of the event, and the workmen were also regaled with roast beef and plum pudding, ale, &c.—*Ibid.*

August 4.—The first number of a weekly paper entitled "The Albion; or Shields, Newcastle, Sunderland, and Durham Weekly Advertiser," was printed and published at South Shields, by B. G. Sharp and Co., and given *gratis*. It contained nothing but advertisements. This was the only number that appeared.—*Ibid.*

August 13.—The colliers of the Tyne and Wear, to the number of 10,000 or 12,000, met at Bolden Fell, in the county of Durham. During the forenoon the roads in the vicinity presented an unusual bustle, the men walked in procession from the different collieries,

bearing flags and banners, and in two or three instances attended by bands of music. The banners were numerous and of the gayest description, nearly all being embellished with a painted design, or with a motto more or less connected with the recent struggle of the pitmen and their employers. The object of the meeting was to get up an address to his majesty, thanking him for his beneficent attention to the wants of his people, for the reform bill, and for the support he had given to his ministers. About twelve o'clock, the speakers, who consisted of a few of the delegates from each colliery, mounted a cart, and proceeded to the business of the day. Thomas Hepburn first presented himself, and recommended order, sobriety, and attention to their religious duties, as the best means they could adopt to preserve the advantages they had gained, and to keep up in the public mind that favourable feeling which had been so generally elicited towards them during the strike. He was followed in a similar strain by Robert Arkle, Charles Parkinson, B. Pile, and R. Atkinson, the latter of whom recommended that Hepburn (one of the most active promoters and sustainers of the strike) should be appointed by the Union of the trade, and be maintained by the same body, to visit the different collieries, and to enforce the rules of the Union, the necessity of good conduct, and the duty of attention to the education of the younger branches of their families. The several addresses were patiently listened to, and loudly applauded; they were delivered with peculiar fervour, and when touching on the results of the strike, and the steps necessary to be taken in consequence, they exhibited considerable acuteness as to the course of conduct which could alone preserve to them the advantages they had acquired, and render them deserving of them. The topic least commented on was that which they had met chiefly to discuss. They had no resolutions prepared respecting it—no address to his majesty to lay before the meeting. It was at length resolved, however, that the delegates should meet on that day week and prepare one; and that, in the mean time, the signatures of the workmen at each colliery should be procured for the purpose of affixing them to it. Thanks having been voted to the public for their sympathy, and to the king and his ministers, particularly to lords Grey, Brougham, and Durham, the bands were ordered to play the national anthem, which they did amidst tremendous cheering. The immense assemblage then dispersed in a similar order to that in which they arrived.—*Local Papers.*

1831 (August 16).—On this day (Tuesday), the first number of a newspaper intitled "The Northumberland Advertiser, and Agricultural Shipping, and Commercial Journal," was printed and published at North Shields, by William Fordyce.—*Ibid.*

1831 (August 18).—Died, in Pandon, Newcastle, aged 106 years, Hugh Smith, commonly known by the appellation of *Blue Brecks*; he went about in his usual health till within a short time of his death.—*Local Papers*.



IN PANDON, NEWCASTLE (1841).

August 25.—The address agreed to at the meeting of pitmen on Boldon Fell, was dispatched on the evening of this day (Thursday) to Lord Melbourne for presentation to his majesty, after having received 11,561 signatures from the workmen employed at 57 collieries on the rivers Tyne and Wear.—*Ibid*.

August 30.—Died, at the house of her son-in-law, at Washington Mill House, Durham, Mrs. Isabella Smith, in her 100th year.—*Ibid*.

August.—“The asylum for female Penitents, for Newcastle-upon Tyne and its vicinity,” was established. A house was taken and entered upon in Villa-place, capable of receiving eight or ten inmates, and within six months it was full, and several applicants had been refused admission, very reluctantly, for want of room; this induced the committee to call (by circular, dated February, 1832,) upon the benevolent and humane public, to enable them to obtain a larger house and an assistant matron.—*Ibid*.

1831 (Sep. 3).—In the evening a new Methodist chapel was opened in Park street, Darlington, by the rev. Jabez Bunting, M. A., the chapel previously in use, though very commodious, having proved too small for the great increase of the members of that society in Darlington and the neighbourhood.—*Local Papers.*

September 5.—Whilst a man named Walker, banksman at Elvet colliery, near Durham, was laying hold of a corf of coals which had been drawn to the mouth of the shaft, he was nearly precipitated to the bottom, owing to the mismanagement of the individual who attended, inasmuch as he lowered the corf instead of raising it, which caused Walker to fall with his head downwards, and falling with his hands in the corf, whilst his feet was caught by some projection at the side of the shaft; he remained in this position until a person, not far from the spot, came and rescued him, by drawing him up by the feet. The poor fellow when placed in safety, was so sensible of the dangerous situation he had been in, that he burst into tears.—*Local Rec.*

September 6.—Died, at his house in Anderson place, Newcastle, George Anderson, esq., F.S.A., formerly major of the 34th regiment of foot, and a deputy-lieutenant and magistrate of the county of Northumberland, in the 71st year of his age. Major Anderson was very liberal to various of the public institutions of Newcastle; he presented a valuable painting to the church of St. Andrew, which is placed above the altar table; he also contributed liberally towards the building of the new chapel of St. Thomas, at the Barras-bridge, and by will left the following bequests:—to the church of St. Andrew £100, to repair and ornament the tower, and a further bequest of £400, to erect a spire, 100 feet high, if the tower should be found capable of bearing it, his wish being, that it might be visible from Durham, and be an ornament to the town. He also left to St. John's church £200, to raise a spire 50 feet high on the tower thereof, with his arms engraven thereon; and £500, to St. Nicholas' church, for the purpose of obtaining a large bell to strike the hours upon, all of which bequests to be null and void if not complied with in the course of three years from his death. He was interred in St. Nicholas' church; his funeral was attended by a great number of gentry and a long train of carriages.—*Local Papers.*

September 8.—Being the day set apart for the celebration of the coronation of king William IV., and his illustrious consort, at Newcastle, the morning was ushered in with every mark of respect and joy. At an early hour the guns from the castle fired a royal salute, and the bells of the various churches rung merrily, and the shops were very generally closed, all business being suspended. On the morning, the

corporate body of the town went in procession to St. Nicholas' church, and attended divine service. Dinners in honour of the coronation were held at various places in that town. The mayor and corporation, and the brethren of the Trinity-house, gave £20., to be contested for by six-oared boats on the river Tyne; the contest to commence from the high end of Sandgate, and the boats were to proceed up the river, round the island called the King's Meadows, and back to the bridge. After a well-contested struggle, the race was won by the William Clayton, 1st., receiving £10., the Flying Fish, 2nd., receiving £6.; and the Robert Bell, 3rd., receiving £4. Three other boats started. According to previous announcement, Mr. Green, the aeronaut, accompanied by major Callender, ascended in his magnificent balloon from the Spital-field, amidst a great concourse of spectators. After remaining about half an hour in the air, the balloon descended upon the fine lawn in front of Close house, about eight miles from Newcastle, the seat of Mrs. Bewicke, to whose kind hospitality the aeronauts were much indebted for her liberal supply of every sort of refreshment. The ball at the assembly-rooms, in the evening, was most brilliantly attended; nearly 160 of the ladies and gentlemen in the neighbourhood being present, and the dancing was kept up with great spirit until a late hour. In the forenoon, the soldiers in the barracks, were reviewed by the commanding officer of the district, and fired a *feu de joie*. The inmates of the Freeman's hospitals were presented with 2s. 6d. each, and the poor in the different parish workhouses were regaled with roast beef, plum pudding, and ale.

The Northern Political Union being determined on a public meeting this day, in order to move an address of thanks to his majesty for the reform bill, and also to adopt a petition to be presented to the house of lords, began to assemble about ten o'clock, and proceeded in a body to the town-moor, whither hustings, erected on waggons, were drawn for the accommodation of the speakers. The procession was headed by a band of music, and various emblematical flags. The weather was rather inauspicious, and immediately before the commencement of the business, the assemblage between 2,000 and 3,000, was visited by a heavy shower of rain. The preliminaries having been gone through, Mr. John Fife, (surgeon) moved that the chair be taken by Charles Attwood, esq. The motion was followed by loud cheers. The meeting was severally addressed by Mr. John Fife, Mr. A. L. Potter, Mr. T. H. Bell, of Alnwick, Mr. Joseph Watson, Mr. Charles Larkin, Mr. Eneas Mackenzie, senior, Mr. Weatherson, Mr. Wilson, of Hexham, &c., after which an address to his majesty and a petition to the house of lords for the passing of the reform bill

were read and adopted.* The members of the Union and their friends then left the ground and proceeded to the dinner, in a field behind Forth-street (formerly called Blackett's-field) and the town's wall, belonging to Mr. Featherston, and shortly after one o'clock, between 1,500 and 1,600 sat down, without the slightest inconvenience Mr. Attwood again took the chair. The arrangements were very complete; four large tents were erected, each containing two rows of tables, well stored with roast and boiled beef, ham, and bread. A separate table was provided for the chairman and the council of the union. On each side of the square, tents were placed for the purpose of supplying the company with ale or spirits at their own cost.

This being the fiftieth year since R. Raikes, esq., devised the plan of Sunday-school instruction, the committee of the Newcastle Sunday-school union held a jubilee on the day of the coronation, in celebration of the event. After various services in Brunswick chapel, nearly 2,000 children, and 300 teachers took tea together in their respective school-rooms. In the evening a special general meeting of the union was held in St. James' chapel, Blackett street, which was most numerously attended.

In Gateshead, the children and teachers attended service in the Wesleyan chapel; and in the afternoon they partook of refreshments. The day was also celebrated by dinners at the principal inns.

The coronation day having been appointed for laying the foundation stone of a new Episcopal chapel, at Hetton, in the county of Durham, the ceremony took place at twelve o'clock on that day. The stone marked "Will. IV. Sep. 8, 1831," being lowered down, it was arranged and adjusted according to masonic rule, by G. T. Fox, esq., of Durham, in the presence of several of the subscribers and inhabitants of Hetton; after which an appropriate address was delivered by the rev. E. S. Thurlow, rector of Houghton-le-Spring, in which parish the chapel is situated.

At Stockton, the bells were rung merrily, and there was a display of flags from the custom-house, town-house, and numerous shipping in the harbour; the shops were closed, and the day was observed as a holiday. At seven o'clock on the morning, the bellman summoned the poor in the town to attend at the shambles, where Robert Lamb, esq., mayor, at his own expense, caused about 100 stones of beef to be distributed, and which was done to between 400 and 500 families.

At Darlington, the shops were all closed, the bells were rung during the whole of the day, a band of music paraded the streets,

* The petition to the house of lords was despatched to London on the 20th of September, 1832, with 30,734 signatures appended. It measured in length 157 yards.

and three public dinners, most respectably attended, were held. The town was partially illuminated at night.

A grand dinner party was held at the Londonderry-arms, Seaham harbour, to celebrate the coronation of their majesties.

A very magnificent display of Chinese fire works took place at Barnardcastle, which continued from eight o'clock till half past eleven o'clock in the evening, and reflected great credit upon the ingenuity of Mr. T. Bell, the conductor of the exhibition.

At Sunderland, the 82nd regiment, stationed at the barracks, fired a *feu de joie* in honour of the day, flags were displayed in various parts of the town, all business was suspended, cannons were fired and bells were rung. A large party of gentlemen dined at Kay's, the Golden lion inn, sir Cuthbert Sharp in the chair, and the poor in Sunderland workhouse were plenteously regaled with roast beef and plum pudding, with a sufficiency of ale. In the evening, many of the inhabitants illuminated their houses.

At South Shields, the festivities of the day was observed by the ringing of bells, firing of guns, &c. At eight o'clock on the morning, 500 poor families were supplied with 4lbs of beef, and a loaf of bread each. A fat sheep was also distributed to the poor by Mr. John Oyston. Flags were displayed from the ships in the harbour, as well as from many houses in the town; parties dined at the principal inns, the poor were also regaled with a dinner and ale at the workhouse, the sailors had a procession, and there was a display of fireworks in the evening.

At North Shields, the coronation was celebrated with every demonstration of joy. The bells rung many merry peals, guns were fired from Clifford's-fort, and the ships in the harbour displayed their flags. To make the poor comfortable on this memorable occasion, a liberal subscription was entered into by the inhabitants, from the proceeds of which, each poor family was supplied with bread, beef, and ale. £50. were given by the managers of the seamen's relief fund to be distributed to the scullermen in beef and bread.

At Chester-le-street, the bells were rung merrily, and Mr. John Jackson, of South Shields, gave to twenty poor persons of the former place, one ounce of tea, one pound of sugar, and a cake each, to regale themselves on the occasion.

On this auspicious day, great rejoicings took place at all the other towns and most of the villages in Northumberland and Durham, one universal feeling seeming to pervade the whole.—*Local Papers.*

September 12.—Mr. Green and major Callender ascended in the magnificent balloon of the former, a few minutes after three o'clock, from the yard of the gas company, in the Manors, Newcastle. The

balloon, after being about an hour in the air, descended at Low Gosforth, nearly three miles from Newcastle.—*Local Papers.*

1831 (Sep. 19).—Mr. Green made another ascent from the corporation yard, near the gas works, in the Manors, Newcastle. On this occasion, he was accompanied by Miss Oyston, daughter of Mr. Ambrose Oyston, brick manufacturer, of South Shields. An immense concourse of spectators were assembled to witness the ascent, both in the yard which was fitted up for the reception of company, and on every house top and eminence which could command a sight of the balloon. The day was clear, but somewhat windy, which occasioned a little delay in the aeronauts commencing their journey, but the interval was agreeably filled up by letting off several pilot balloons. This was the first time that a female had ascended from Newcastle. The descent took place in a pasture field called Saltwick Hawes, in the parish of Stanington.—*Ibid.*

September 20.—About nine o'clock on the morning, a dreadful explosion took place in the Willington High pit, the property of Messrs. Bell and Co., by which three men and eight horses were killed, and fourteen men severely burnt. The whole complement of men were in the colliery at the time of the accident, and many more lives must have been lost, but from another outlet to the pit, by which the men were drawn up. The names of the sufferers were, Michael Martin, Thomas Nicholls. and Joseph Armstrong.—*Ibid.*

October 10.—The common council of Newcastle, established a new corporate company entitled "The Company or fraternity of Grocers and Spicers of Newcastle upon Tyne," of which Taylor Gibson, Henry



ARMS OF THE SPICERS' COMPANY.

Jefferson, John Daglish, Thomas Atkinson, Robert Usher, William Alexander Bowes, Thomas Dobson, William Pearson, William Mowbray Potts, John Mowbray, Septimus Mowbray, William Wailes, Richard Pringle Watson, the Younger, and Dawson Stephen Humble, free burgesses of the said town, and carrying on the trades or crafts of a grocer and spicer, or the one of them, in the said town, were declared members, and they were consequently enabled to bestow the freedom of the town upon their apprentices.—*Ordinance of the Company.*

1831 (Oct. 17).—This being the day appointed for the public meeting of the friends and associates of the Northern political union, to take into consideration the measures necessary to be adopted in consequence of the House of lords having rejected the reform bill, large parties of reformers arrived from the neighbourhood of Newcastle, during the forenoon, and proceeded to the places appointed for them, previous to walking in procession to the Town moor, where the meeting was held. A little before twelve o'clock, the procession started from Westgate street, preceded by the hustings, on which a board was placed with the words "The King, Grey, and Liberty," painted on it. The reformers followed walking four a-breast, with complete regularity and order, forming a line of such immense extent as to occupy nearly fifty minutes in passing any particular spot. About a dozen bands and upwards of thirty flags, variously inscribed and ornamented were dispersed over the whole, and contributed much to enliven the scene. In the centre of the procession was the carriage of Charles Atwood, esq., of Whickham, from whence he had been drawn that morning by a party of his friends, who continued to pursue this method of evincing their respect towards him. The hustings were placed on the cow-hill, and were immediately filled and surrounded by people who continued to increase in number until after one o'clock, when the number present was computed at about 50,000 persons. At one o'clock Mr. Attwood was called to the chair, and that gentleman immediately addressed the meeting at considerable length. The multitude then gave three times three tremendous cheers each for the king and earl Grey, and left the Town-moor in the most perfect order.—*Local Papers.*

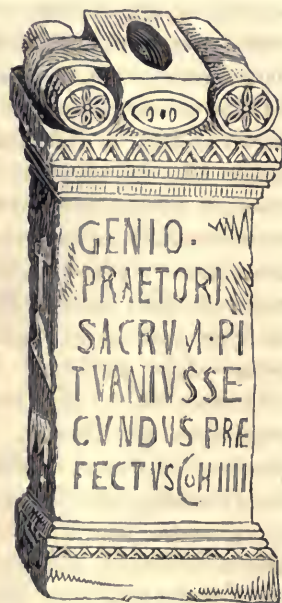
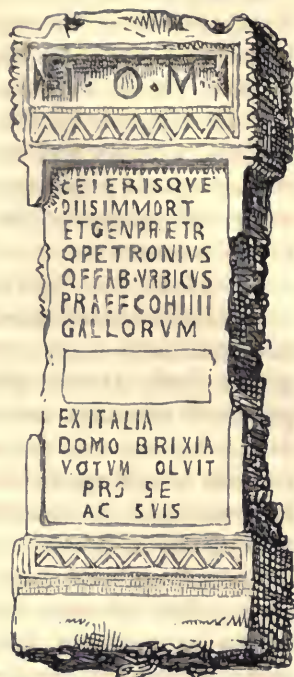
October 22.—A fire broke out at Presson-farm, near Wark, belonging to Mr. Taylor. The wind blew very high, and in a few minutes the flames increased to a fearful height, and consumed two large stacks of hay, five large stacks of straw, a stable, two sheds, two byers, and a hen house. With great exertions the fat cattle and horses were safely got out, and the fire prevented spreading to other parts of the building. Its origin could not be accounted for.—*Ibid.*



1831 (Oct. 22.)

These fine altars, with another, were found on this day, on the outside of the semicircular projection of the hypocaust, near the eastern gateway of the station

of Vindolana. The first is 4 feet 9 inches high, and finely carved. Its ninth and tenth lines have been purposely erased, probably for the correction of some error of the sculptor. Quintus Petronius, however, has contrived to leave us here, in a small compass, a goodly display of his names, family, rank, country and birth place. It is thus Anglified, "To Jupiter the Best and Greatest, and to the rest of the immortal Gods and the Genius of the Prætorium, Quintus Petronius, son of Quintus of the Fabian family, surnamed Urbicus, præfect of the fourth cohort of the Gauls, from Italy, and of a house of Brixia, performed a vow for himself and family." The bottom of the other altar, has been so much fretted away by damp or weather as to be very dim, if not altogether illegible; but the upper part is quite perfect. It is 26½ inches in height, has on its left side the sacrificing axe and knife, and an ox; on the right, the præfericulum, and a patera with a human face carved on its centre. The focus on its top bears strong marks of fire. A domestic at the place is said to have given the following explanation to one of her friends:—"That's an aud communion table; the hole i'the top's for the wine, and there's the knife they cut the bread with." It is sacred to



the Genius of the Prætorium by Pituanus Secundus, præfect of the fourth cohort of the Gauls. At the same period was found a large pine cone, represented above, a neatly shaped copper pan, and other remains.—*Hodgson. MS. Col.*

1831 (Oct. 25).—A public meeting of the inhabitants of Newcastle, was held in the Guildhall, to consider of and adopt the best means of supporting the exertions of his majesty's ministers, for still carrying the reform measure into effect, when it was resolved that two addresses should be transmitted for presentation to his majesty and earl Grey.—*Local Papers.*

October 26.—The *Cholera Morbus*, made its first appearance at Sunderland, in the county of Durham, and so fatal were its effects, that between the above day and April 3rd, 1832, there were 538 persons attacked, of whom 205 died. On its first appearance much alarm was excited in consequence of some medical practitioners having declared that it was contagious, whilst others contended for its non-contagion; in the mean time government having been apprised of the mortality existing at Sunderland, sent Doctors Daun and Barry (the former intimately acquainted with cholera from his long residence in India, and the latter had visited Russia to witness the progress of cholera there), to examine and report, and they, in opposition to the resident faculty, declared it to be the Asiatic cholera, of a highly malignant and contagious nature, and in consequence, the ships from that port were put under a quarantine for fifteen days, causing great stagnation of business, which added much to the distress amongst the lower orders. Boards of health were established at that and the neighbouring towns. The large school house, built by Mr. White, at Coxon's Green, near Sunderland, was fitted up as an hospital for the reception of patients afflicted with cholera. The barrack gates were closed to prevent the garrison having any communication with the town, the magistrates caused the streets and lanes to be cleansed by the fire-engines, and a committee of gentlemen was formed, who divided the town into districts, and visited each daily, in order that all persons affected with cholera might have medical aid. Many meetings of the faculty and others took place for the purpose of ascertaining the nature of the dreadful malady, and also to devise the best means of relieving the distressed inhabitants. The nobility and gentry of the county of Durham subscribed liberally towards the relief of the poor during this awful visitation. It raged principally amongst those of the lower orders whose dissolute habits and want of cleanliness rendered them speedy victims to its direful attacks, most of them only surviving a few hours.—*Ibid.*, &c.

1831 (Oct. 27).—There was a great public meeting at Sunderland, to determine on presenting an address to the king on the subject of the rejection, by the house of lords, of the bill for a reform in the commons' house of parliament.—*Local Papers*.

October 31.—The freeholders and other inhabitants of the county of Durham, met in the spacious area in front of the court-house at the city of Durham, to deliberate on the rejection of the reform bill, and to address his majesty and his ministers. The number present was between 8,000 and 10,000.—*Ibid*.

November 17.—As George Lowerson, a boy about four years of age, was playing about his father's door at the Felling, near Newcastle, the covering of an old pit unknown to any person, sunk with him, and he was drowned in the water at the bottom.—*Ibid*.

November 19.—A meeting of the shipowners of Monkwearmouth, was holden to adopt measures for the construction of a wet dock, near the entrance of the port of Sunderland, and on the north side of the river. A series of resolutions, in favour of the measure, were put and carried unanimously. The meeting was addressed by sir H. Williamson, bart., M. P., and others.—*Gent's. Mag*.

November 25.—The mayor of Berwick, John Langhorn, esq., with the magistrates and other officers, a deputation appointed by the corporation, waited on lord Edward Fitzclarence, at Etal House, in Northumberland, to present his lordship with the freedom of the borough. The deputation were hospitably entertained, and returned highly gratified.—*Local Papers*.

Same day, died, at Colliery Row, near Houghton-le-Spring, Mrs. Elizabeth Robson, aged 100 years.—*Ibid*.

December 7.—The cholera commenced its ravages in Newcastle, from which time to March the 12th, 1832, the number of persons attacked was 1039, of which 322 died.* From the constant intercourse between Newcastle and Sunderland, this visitation had been apprehended for some time, therefore every means had been adopted by the local authorities to avert as much as possible the impending danger. Various meetings of the faculty, &c., took place, at one of which doctors Daun and Barry were present, lieut.col. Creagh had formed a board of health by order of government, and Archibald Reed, esq., mayor, having received orders to send to government daily reports of the state of health in Sunderland, South Shields, North Shields, and Newcastle, obtained every information in his power for

* On the 9th, when the first official report was issued, five cases had occurred, of whom two died and the three remaining were mild. All the reports were signed by "John Brown, Secretary."

that purpose. Letters were sent to the owners of property in Sandgate, Pandon, the Close, Castle-garth, Queen-street, Bailiff-gate, Back-row, and other ill-ventilated and dirty places in the town, calculated to retain and spread the infection, earnestly recommending them to have the interior of their houses washed with hot lime, either at their own expense or that of their tenants. The magistrates, who were unceasing in their exertions to mitigate the evil, ordered the lanes in Sandgate to be washed with hot lime and thoroughly cleansed. Hospitals, to which patients might be removed on their first attack, from populous neighbourhoods, and where they could be more efficiently attended to, were fitted up with requisite conveniences. The castle was appropriated to the parish of St. Nicholas; for the parish of All Saints, a large house on the North Shore, behind Sandgate, was converted into an hospital; the paupers were removed from St. John's poor-house, in the Bath-lane, without the Westgate, to other premises, and that building was fitted up for the reception of cholera patients in the parishes of St. John and St. Andrew. The mayor issued an order in pursuance of the powers delegated by the privy council, that the bodies of all persons who died of cholera, should be interred within twelve hours from the time of their decease, and an inspector was appointed to see that this order was complied with. Every precaution was taken with the dead; they were buried in a part of the church-yards set aside for the purpose, their graves were not less than six feet deep, and quick lime was thrown in upon the coffins, the corpses were not allowed to enter the churches, but were taken forward to the graves, and the service read over them there. The corporation caused a carriage to be constructed to convey with more ease and less danger, patients to the various hospitals, and the same body were at the expense of building a hearse to convey the corpses to the grave. The barracks were closed, and the soldiers stationed there were not allowed to come into the town. In consequence of this visitation, the theatre was not opened as usual for the winter season, a quarantine was placed upon all ships from that port, by which business was most grievously stagnated, and the annual Christmas ball and supper given at the mansion-house were postponed until the 22nd of March, 1832. During the greatest fatality of this disorder the bells of the various churches tolled continually from morning to night, and the corpses passed through the streets in great numbers and in rapid succession, many of them without a single attendant, but the person who was appointed to lead the horse, which was attached to the hearse, and he holding the bridle at its utmost stretch. The greatest number of deaths which occurred in one day was on January 16, 1832, when twelve persons suffered, the inhabi-

tants in general were unremitting in relieving those who were in misery and want. A great number of keels of coals were given to the poor by the coal owners. A committee was appointed by a public meeting, held on the 30th November, to relieve the wants and add to the comforts of the poorer inhabitants, who distributed throughout the four parishes, clothing, bedding, and fuel to the amount of about thirteen hundred pounds. There were interred at St. Nicholas church, from December the 13th, 1831, to January 29th, 1832, thirty-one persons who had died of this disease; and at All Saints church, from December 9th, 1831, to February 21st, 1832, eighty-seven persons who had fallen victims to the same disorder. The other churches also received a portion, but the generally crowded state of all the church-yards in Newcastle, precluded them admitting any more; the bodies were, therefore, after this, interred at the Ballast-hills, St. Ann's chapel, and the Westgate-hill General Cemetery. As a proof of the sanatory condition of Newcastle, previously to its being visited by the cholera, it may be stated from a careful examination of the several registers of burial that the deaths for the months of September, October, and November, 1830, were 538, and that for the corresponding months in 1831, the deaths were 432, being less by 106, than at the former period.—*Local Papers.*

1831 (Dec. 10).—The cholera made its first appearance at North Shields, from which day to March 17th, 1832, the number of individuals attacked in North Shields, Tynemouth, and Chirton, was 258, of whom died 91 persons.—*Ibid.*



CHAPTER V.



ON the 21st of December, 1831, the friends and admirers of the rev. William Turner, of the Unitarian chapel, Hanover-square, Newcastle, gave him a very splendid entertainment at the Assembly-rooms in acknowledgment of his great public usefulness, and on the occasion of his entrance into the fiftieth year of his residence in that town, when upwards of one hundred gentlemen sat down to dinner.

A few days after, 9th of January, 1832, he had another proof of attachment shewn to him, by his congregation, who presented him with an elegant silver salver, suitably inscribed, to mark their sense of his efficient services, and in commemoration of his entering upon the fiftieth year of his ministry. The subscription on this occasion, confined to members of the chapel, having accumulated to the amount of three hundred and twenty pounds, it was resolved to invest three hundred pounds of this sum in securities for Mr. Turner's benefit. The salver was presented by James Losh, esq.—*Local Papers*.

December 23.—Early on the morning, the stables of Jacob Maude, esq., of Selaby-hall, near Staindrop, in the county of Durham, were set on fire, and four fine horses, two of them hunters, and two coach horses, worth from £400. to £500. were entirely destroyed. No doubt was entertained that this was the work of incendiaries, the stables having been partly set on fire the Sunday previous, December the 18th, but it had been got under. For the apprehension of the incendiaries, his majesty's government offered £200., Mr. Maude £100., and the marquís of Cleveland £100.—*Ibid*.

December 24.—Upwards of 1,000 pitmen riotously assembled to-

gether at Walldridge colliery, near Chester-le-street, in the county of Durham, and while from twenty to thirty men were at work in the mine, stopped the engine, necessarily kept going in order to pump out the water, and then threw large iron tubs, wooden cisterns, corves, and other articles down the shaft, by which the workmen were placed in the utmost danger. For apprehending and bringing to justice the persons concerned in these outrages, his majesty's government offered a reward of 250 guineas, and a free pardon to accomplices, and the owners of Walldridge colliery also offered a reward of 250 guineas to any one but the real actors in the outrage. At the Durham spring assizes, March the 2nd, 1832, six men named James Becketts, Cuthbert Turnbull, John Middleton, John Rippon, Samuel Brown, David Kelly, and Thomas Moore, were put upon their trial for the above outrages, and after a patient investigation, the jury retired for about ten minutes, and returned with a verdict finding Brown, Rippon, Moore, Middleton, Kelly, and Becketts, guilty, and Turnbull, not guilty; the first three were then sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment, Middleton and Kelly, to 12 months, and Becketts to 6 months' imprisonment. It appeared upon the trial, that the pitmen employed at this colliery had refused to work, and in consequence the owners had employed some lead miners, who were down the pit at the time of the outrage.—*Local Papers.*

1831 (Dec. 25).—The cholera made its appearance at Gateshead, and on the following day (Monday), forty cases had occurred. The number of persons attacked between this day and the 6th of March, 1832, was 402, of which 144 died. On the Tuesday, the number of new cases was by far the largest that had occurred in the district in one day,* which excited considerable alarm. Within a space of twelve hours it spread itself over a diameter of two miles, and appeared to pay but very little distinction to altitude of situation, for the higher parts of the town were laid under its stroke in an equal degree, or nearly so, with the lower. Pipewellgate, Hillgate, the banks above Pipewellgate, Oakwellgate, and the lanes leading from it, Jackson's-chare, Nun's-lane, Wreckington, Gateshead Low-fell, Low-team, situations as different in their external characters as can well be conceived, were all indiscriminately exposed to its fury. Sunderland, Newcastle, North Shields, and Gateshead, were the towns in Durham and Northumberland, most devoted to the ravages of this pestilence, but a great number of colliery and other villages suffered in no ordinary degree. On the 3rd of Jan. 1832, at the village of Newburn,

* A joiner in Gateshead, it is stated, made fifty coffins in one week, and from December 25th to the January 13th, had made 102 coffins for persons having died of this malady.

situated on the river Tyne, about five miles west of Newcastle, the cholera broke out and made dreadful devastation—out of a population of 550, occupying 131 houses, there were 424 persons attacked, of whom 57 died. Among the victims was the rev. James Edmonson, the vicar of that place.—*Local Papers*.

1831 (Dec. 30).—Died, at Framlington, in Northumberland, Elizabeth Headley, aged 107 years.—*Ibid*.

December.—Died, in St. Giles's workhouse, London, Mr. John Mitford. He was born at Mitford-castle, in Northumberland, had served as a sub-officer in the fleets under Hood and Nelson, and was related to the noble family of Redesdale, but whose depraved and vicious habits had long rendered him an alien to his kindred, and an outcast of society. His name will be long remembered in connexion with lady Percival, in the Black-heath affair, for his share in which, he was tried but acquitted. For many years Mitford had lived by chance, and slept three nights out of the week in the open air, when his finances did not admit of his paying threepence for a den in St. Giles's. Though formerly a nautical fop, for fourteen years before his death, he was ragged and loathsome; he never thought but for the necessities of the moment, and having had once given to him an excellent pair of Wellington boots, sold them for a shilling; the fellow who bought them put them in pawn for fifteen shillings, and came back in triumph with the money. "Ah" said Jack, "but he went out in the cold air for it." He was the author of "Johnny Newcome in the Navy." The publisher gave him a shilling a day till he finished it. Incredible as it may appear, he lived the whole of the time in Bayswater-fields, making a bed at night of grass and nettles. Two-penny worth of bread and cheese and an onion, was his daily food, the remainder of the shilling he expended in gin. He thus passed forty-three days, washing his shirt and stockings himself in a pond when he required clean linen. He was employed in the latter part of his life by publishers of a humble class, and of a certain description. Efforts had at various times been made to reclaim him, but without effect. A Mr. E——, a printer and publisher, having an eye to business, took him into his house, and endeavoured to render him "decent;" for a few days he was sober, and lord Redesdale, (through the instrumentality of Mr. James Green, of Wills' Coffee-house, Portugal-street, who had been a brother officer of Mitford's, and fought with him at the battle of the Nile), enabled him to make a respectable appearance; indeed his lordship had numberless times evinced a disposition to support Mitford in respectability, but the wretched man was too deeply plunged in vice and low habits to be reclaimed. Whilst editing a catchpenny publication, Mr. E——, was obliged to keep

him in a place, half kitchen and half cellar, where, with a loose grate tolerably filled, a candle, and a bottle of gin, he passed his days; and, with the covering of an old carpet, his nights; never issuing from his lair but when the bottle was empty. Sometimes he got furious with drink, and his shoes having been taken from him to prevent his emigrating; he would then run out without them, and has taken off his coat in winter and sold it for half a pint of gin. A short time before his death, he wrote a song "The King is a true British Sailor," and sold it to seven different publishers. This miserable man was buried by his friend; he left a wife and family, who had always been, and after Mitford's death, were provided for by lord Redesdale. His remains were deposited in St. Giles's churchyard on the 30th of December.—*Local Papers*

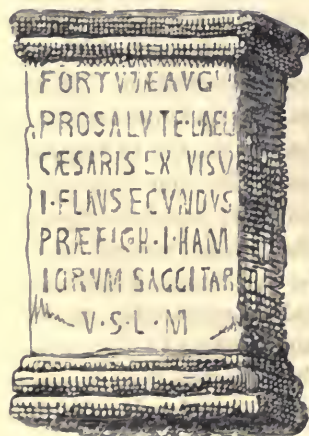
1831.—Providence chapel (Independent) Winlaton, founded. The register of births and baptisms 20, extending from 1830 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

Smyrna chapel (Presbyterian) Bishopwearmouth, founded. The register of births and baptisms, extending from 1831 to 1836.—*Ibid.*

1831.—Population returns :—

County of Durham.....	253,827
———— Northumberland.....	222,912
———— Newcastle-upon-Tyne.....	55,922
Gateshead (Parish of St. Mary).....	15,177

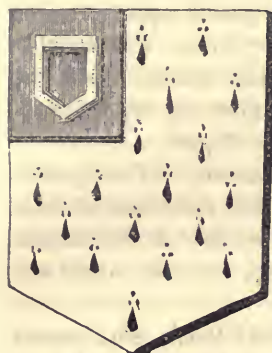
This year, St. John's church in Newcastle, underwent a complete repair by the exterior of the tower being pointed with cement, and nearly the whole of the crocketed pinnacles upon the tower and the body of the church, being in a very bad state, were replaced with new mason work, but preserving the original form.—



An altar was this year found at the Roman station of Caervorran, near Blenkinsopp, Northumberland, and its inscription is translated thus :—Titus Flavius Secundus prefect of the first cohort of the Hamian Archers, according to a vision, and in due and voluntary performance of a vow [erected this altar] to divine Fortune for the safety of Lucius Aelius Caesar. The view on the following page represents the excavated apartments in the station, and also the situation of the altar, when found. At present it is at Blenkinsopp-hall.—*Hodgson's Northd.*



1831.—The ruins of Benwell-hall, near Newcastle, were entirely removed, and a new stone building, in a castellated form, erected upon the old foundation, by Thomas Crawhall, esq.—*Local Papers*.



1832 (Jan. 1).—Died, at Hastings, in his 83rd year, William Surtees, esq., of Montagu-square, London, sheriff of Newcastle in 1780, and for some years receiver general of the taxes for the counties of Northumberland and Durham. His widow, Elizabeth Catherine Surtees, daughter of the very rev. John Lewis, M. A., dean of Ossory, died, on the 6th of January in the following year, at the house of her son William Surtees, esq., in Devonshire place, London

in the 88th year of her age.—*Ibid*.

January 11.—Divine service was performed in the churches and various dissenting chapels in South Shields, prayers were offered up to God that the fearful disease (cholera) then prevailing in the neighbourhood might be stayed. The day was strictly kept as a holiday, all business being suspended, and all the shops closed.—*Ibid*.



January 25.—This day, the Burns Club, of Newcastle, met to celebrate the anniversary of the birth of the immortal bard by their accustomed annual dinner, at the house of Mrs. Richardson, the sign of the Three Indian Kings inn, on the quay. On the removal of the cloth, after the usual loyal toasts, "The immortal memory of Robert Burns;" was drunk standing, followed by three times three enthusiastic cheers. The secretary of the club, Mr. W. G. Thompson, then

delivered a poetical address, (forming the eighth which he had prepared in succession, for these interesting commemorations of poetical genius,) which contained some allusions both to the serious and the humorous efforts of Burns, and was loudly applauded. In the course of the evening several of the poet's best pieces were sung and recited; and on this occasion, the space behind the president (Mr. T. Small) was fitted up with several busts arranged in the following order: in the centre a bust of Burns, prepared expressly for the occasion by Mr. Dunbar, sculptor, a member of the club; on the right of which stood busts of Byron and Milton, on the left those of Scott and Shakspeare, and in a niche on the left of the chair was placed a fine bust of captain James Glencairn Burns, modelled whilst that gentleman was passing through Newcastle, a short time previously, on his way to visit his venerable parent. The arrangement did Mr. Dunbar great credit, and imparted a splendid and imposing appearance to the apartment. This society, which is strictly private, was founded in the year 1820, previous to which time a public society, under the title of the "Newcastle Burn's Club," held anniversary celebrations, which were announced by advertisement.—*Local Papers*.

1832 (Jan. 25).—The rope house of Mr. Cameron, of Bishopwearmouth, was burnt down. The workmen had left some hours before the discovery of the fire, and such was the violence of the flames, aided by the combustible materials of the place, that the whole was consumed in a short time.—*Ibid*.

January 30.—The right worshipful Archibald Reed, esq., mayor of Newcastle, had a select party to dinner at the mansion house, to meet the following scientific and distinguished foreigners, viz.:—The viscount Desfourneaux, from Paris; professor and doctor Delpaches, from Montpellier; doctor Lewenhagen, from Moscow; and M. M. Laurisson, and Da Costa, from Switzerland. These gentlemen had visited Newcastle in order to make themselves acquainted with the phenomena which characterized the spasmodic cholera in England.—*Ibid*.

January.—This month, a female penitentiary was established at Sunderland, and two individuals had taken shelter under its roof, and several more applications had been made.—*Ibid*.

February 3.—A fire broke out in the paint manufactory of Messrs. Gibson and Todd, South Shields, which, in an hour and a half, entirely destroyed the valuable stock and premises. As there was a large quantity of oil, turpentine, rosin, and other inflammables on the premises, great apprehensions were entertained that it would spread to the property adjoining, but through the prompt exertions made to extinguish the fire, and the speedy arrival and efficient oper-

ation of the engine from North Shields, this was happily prevented. The fire was occasioned by the boiling over of a copper of oil.—*Local Papers.*

1832 (Feb. 5).—The old Roman catholic chapel, Cockshaw, Hexham, (a new one having been built), was opened as a place of worship, in connexion with the United Secession Church of Scotland, by the rev. D. C. Browning, of Newcastle, who preached three times to crowded audiences; after each service, liberal collections were made in aid of the funds.—*Ibid.*

February 13.—Monday, at 12 o'clock at noon, the old bridge at Morpeth was rendered impassable for all except foot passengers; the new bridge was, at the same time, opened out for the use of the public on payment of toll. Mr. Telford chose, or approved of the site on which the bridge is built, at a short distance below the old one; and the designs for it, were furnished by Mr. Dobson, architect, of Newcastle. It consists of three arches, the middle one of fifty feet, and the side ones of forty feet span.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

February 18.—About one o'clock in the afternoon of this day (Saturday), the boiler of the steam engine attached to Messrs. Wheatley and Co's. forge, at the foot of the Swirle, in Sandgate, Newcastle, burst with tremendous violence. Such was the force of the explosion, that masses of brick, stone, wood, in fact, almost all the interior of the building was scattered in every direction. The top and sides of the boiler being torn from the bottom, were carried through the roof of the forge, and, after ascending to a great height in the air, came down on Messrs. Angas and Co's. bonding warehouse, which was three stories high, and situated on the opposite side of the street, breaking through the roof, and lodging on the second floor of the building, breaking some of the strong beams of that floor. The explosion was attended with a lamentable loss of life. Mary Temple, aged 11 years, who was near the spot at the moment of the accident, was wounded by the falling of the walls, and severely scalded, and died on the Monday following. William M'Nare, the forgerman, employed at the works, aged 51 years, Matthew Seymour M'Nare, his son, aged 10 years, who happened to be on the premises, were so severely scalded, that they survived but a short time. George Charlton, aged 32 years, and a female, named Susan Handley, aged 10 years, afterwards died in consequence. Robert Stewart, John Lowrey, and John Dawson, were also severely injured. Part of the sufferers were removed to the infirmary, where every attention was paid to them. Three or four others were scalded but not seriously. On the Monday an inquest was held on the five bodies, when the jury returned a verdict of accidental death; but desired it to be stated, that the

man entrusted with the care of the engine was not equal to the duties of his situation. It was generally supposed that he had had the valve of the boiler tied down with a rope, for the purpose of having a good start on the forgerman recommencing work after dinner, and thus allowed the steam to attain an improper power. It was somewhat singular, that the engineman was sitting with his daughter close to the boiler when it blew up, and both escaped unhurt.—*Local Papers.*

1832 (Feb. 21).—Died, at his house, in Eldon place, Newcastle, after a few hours' illness, Mr. Eneas Mackenzie, printer and publisher, aged 54 years. Mr. Mackenzie was known to the public as the author of a History of Northumberland, a History of Newcastle, and of several other works, and at the time of his death he was engaged in compiling a history of Durham, about one half of which was published at the time of his demise. He was the proposer and active promoter of the Mechanics' institution, in Newcastle. He was born in Aberdeenshire, from whence his parents removed to Newcastle, when he was only three years old. When a young man he worked with his father as a shoemaker, and afterwards became a minister of the Baptist persuasion. He next commenced business as a broker in Sunderland, but this not answering his expectations, he returned to Newcastle and opened a school, which he abandoned for his final occupation, that of a printer and publisher in the number and periodical way. As a public man he was conspicuous, being the chairman of the memorable political meeting held on the Town moor of Newcastle, on October the 11th, 1819, on the transactions at Manchester; and more recently as one of the secretaries of the Northern Political Union. There is an engraved portrait of Mr. Mackenzie, and a bust of him has been placed in the Mechanics' institution by a subscription of the members. Mr. M. fell a victim to the cholera, then raging in Newcastle and its vicinity.—*Ibid.*

February 24.—Died, at Berwick, Mr. James Lee, aged 100 years.—*Ibid.*

February 24.—This day (Saturday), the hon. sir Edward Hall Alderson, knt., and the hon. sir John Patteson, knt., judges of assize, arrived at Newcastle, from Carlisle. They were met about five o'clock in the evening by the high sheriff of Northumberland (George Silver-top, esq.), near the top of the bank leading to Denton-burn, on the Carlisle road, about three miles from Newcastle. The prevalence of cholera morbus in the northern district, it was said had caused this alteration, as the judges of assize had not arrived at Newcastle from time immemorial.—*Ibid.*

This month, the complete enclosure of St. Nicholas church in Newcastle by a lofty iron railing upon a stone parapet wall was perfected :

the old wooden paling. upon a brick wall, which had encircled the cemetery, having, from length of time, failed in different parts.—*Local Papers.*



ST. NICHOLAS'S CHURCH FROM THE SOUTH (1826).

1832 (March 3).—The bonds of the pitmen of the rivers Tyne and Wear being near a close, they had a general meeting, on the above day, at Boldon Fell, in the county of Durham. The men began to arrive from their respective collieries shortly after nine o'clock, and, by eleven o'clock, it was supposed that there were between 7,000 and 8,000 on the ground. About fifty banners, with various mottoes and devices were displayed. This meeting was for the purpose of not agreeing with the coal owners for the next twelve months, unless they would bind the men belonging to the Union, and expunge the 2nd and 7th articles from the bond, &c. Mr. T. Hepburn, chairman, advocated the necessity of all their future proceedings being legal, and regretted the acts of several of the pitmen, some of whom were then being punished accordingly. The other speakers were Waddle, Parkinson, Arkle, and Atkinson, who all urged the necessity of supporting the Union for the maintenance of each other, as no less than £10,000. had been paid in the last twelve months from its funds. They also deprecated, in strong terms, the outrages which had been committed at Kenton, Waldrige, &c. After a few personalities had been vented against certain individuals, and the thanks of the meeting given to others, they quietly dispersed.—*Ibid.*

March 4.—The rev. J. Reed was presented to the vicarage of Newburn, near Newcastle, vacant by the death of the rev. James Edmonson, who fell a victim to the Cholera morbus, whilst that

disease was raging in that village. No divine service having been performed there for some time, in consequence of Mr. Edmonson's death, on the above day (Sunday), the church was crowded to excess, and Mr. Reed, after concluding a very impressive sermon, gave notice that he was then going to read the funeral service over their late vicar, and, immediately proceeding to the church-yard, was followed by about six hundred people, first to the grave of the vicar, and then to that of those who had been buried under similar circumstances, without the rites of the church having been performed over them. This was a solemn and affecting scene to the inhabitants of Newburn, where the effects of the cholera had been so awful.—*Local Papers*.

1832 (March 7).—A melancholy occurrence took place in Beamish colliery, in the county of Durham. In consequence of an unexpected rush of water, William Millar, the viewer, and Robert Moody were drowned; a third man escaped with difficulty. March 23, after the water had been considerably drawn off, the bodies were found in a most shocking condition. On taking the shoes from Moody, his feet separated with them. He left a widow far advanced in pregnancy, and four children. The bodies were interred at Tanfield, on the following day.—*Ibid*.

March 7.—In the evening, a young man, named George Henderson, a cabinet maker, in the Dog-bank, Newcastle, who, along with others, was in the habit of going to St. Nicholas' belfrey to practice the hand-bells, in consequence of the hatchway of the first floor of the tower having that afternoon been left open, unfortunately fell a height of upwards of seventy feet, on to the flagged floor of the church, and was almost instantly killed. The following evening an inquest was held before Richard Hill Gee, esq., one of the coroners for Newcastle, on the body, when a verdict of "Accidental Death," was returned, and the jury unanimously passed a vote of censure for the gross negligence of the parties who had left the hatchway open, without having given due notice thereof. In consequence of this steeple having alarmingly shrunk it had been plumbed, and the plumb-line left hanging down the hatchway.—*Ibid*.

March 8.—A report by Mr. John Dobson, architect, on the state of St. Nicholas' church steeple in Newcastle, was submitted to a meeting of the committee of the common council, at which the churchwardens attended. It attributed the shrinking, which had excited so much alarm, to the injury which had been done to the foundations by interments in the interior of the church, and by a common sewer on the west side of it having been made too deep, and too near the building. The expence of efficiently securing the pillars of the steeple, by masonry and iron bars, was estimated at £1,200.

to be defrayed partly by the corporation and partly by the parish. The foundations of the pillars of the tower were subsequently laid open in the interior of the church, and found to be in a very bad state; several courses of very large stones were laid from pillar to pillar, immense bars of iron were passed through the tower, as binders, and screw-bolted on the outsides, and every means adopted to secure the structure from falling.—*Local Papers.*

1832 (March 10).—Between 8 and 9 o'clock at night a fire was discovered in the manufactory of Messrs. R. and W. Hawthorn, engineers, &c., at the foot of the Forth banks, Newcastle, which speedily assumed a very alarming appearance. The engines were immediately sent for, and, in the mean time, a number of persons endeavoured to arrest the progress of the fire, by throwing buckets of water upon it. After the arrival of the engines, some time elapsed before they could be got into efficient operation, owing to a bad supply of water, and they were a considerable time in full play before any visible effect was produced. About half-past nine o'clock, the roof fell in with a heavy crash, and the flames, which had before been partially confined, rose in a broad mass into the air. About one o'clock on the morning the fire was in a great measure subdued, and before four o'clock was quite extinguished, not, however, until the whole of the manufactory, with the exception of the offices, was reduced to a mass of ruins. A detachment of infantry, and the dragoons from the barracks, were soon on the spot, and a party of the Northumberland and Newcastle volunteer cavalry were also early in attendance. How the fire originated could not be ascertained; it broke out in a room immediately above the engine, and it was conjectured to have been occasioned by the heat. The damage was estimated at nearly £5,000., of this the loss in patterns was about £2,000., the remainder arose from the destruction of the building, the machinery in use and the articles in progress of manufacture. The stock and premises were insured for about £2,000. A loss, which operated very severely was that of the tools of the workmen, chiefly millwrights, which were consumed.—*Ibid.*

March 21.—Being the day (Wednesday) appointed for a general fasting and humiliation, on account of the grievous plague wherewith it had pleased divine Providence to afflict this country, was observed in Newcastle with all the solemnity befitting the occasion. The day was religiously observed at Durham, Sunderland, South Shields and North Shields, Alnwick, and all the neighbouring towns.—*Ibid.*

March 22.—Mrs. Mayoress gave a grand ball and supper at the mansion-house in Newcastle. From a laudable desire to serve the tradesmen who had all suffered in some degree from the previous

visitation (cholera), it was resolved that this should be a fancy, as well as a dress ball. The gaiety and splendour in which many of the guests appeared, shewed their readiness to meet the wish of the hostess.—*Local Papers.*

1832 (March).—Died, the celebrated race horse XYZ, the winner of many gold cups, and the property of R. Riddell, esq., of Felton park, in Northumberland.—*Ibid.*

April 6.—The first stone of a new chapel of ease was laid at Duddo, in the parish of Norham, by the rev. William Gilly, vicar, in the presence of a great number of the inhabitants.—*Ibid.*



"DUDDO STONES" (1836).

Commemorative of a victory over the Scots in 1538.

April 14.—The pitmen of the rivers Tyne and Wear held a general meeting of their body at the Black-fell, near Wreckenton, in the county of Durham, to the number of about 9,000. The greater part of them walked in procession, carrying banners, &c. About eleven o'clock Mr. T. Hepburn, as usual, was called to the chair. After the chairman had opened the proceedings, several other speakers in succession addressed the pitmen, all of whom enforced the necessity of supporting the union, which they said would eventually baffle the machinations of their employers. In conclusion, he urged them to part quietly, and let the world see their determination to support good order. The meeting then broke up, the men formed under their respective banners, and left the place of meeting in the most peaceable manner.—*Ibid.*

April 19.—The sale of some detached portions of the Greenwich hospital estates in Cumberland and Northumberland which had been long advertised, took place in the great room of the auction mart, London, Mr. George Robins, auctioneer. In Northumberland, the manor of Meldon, five miles from Morpeth, rental at the time of the

sale £2,119 per annum, excited a most spirited competition, and was eventually sold for 56,900 guineas, to Isaac Cookson, esq., alderman of Newcastle.—*Local Papers*.

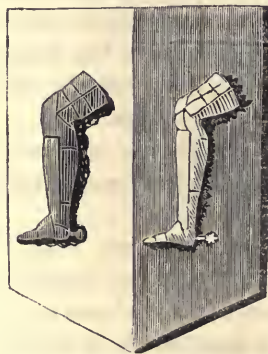
1832 (April 21).—The works of those collieries where the men had made a stick, being at a stand, the owners had in many instances engaged other hands, and their late servants illegally retaining possession of their dwellings, there remained but one of two alternatives—either to submit to their late servants, or to put the newly engaged men into possession of the houses, &c., which are kept expressly for the occupancy of their workmen. On the above day (Saturday), the work of legal, but forcible ejection first commenced at Hetton colliery, in the county of Durham. Proper steps had been taken to prevent as much as possible any disturbance; special constables were appointed, a strong force of London police, was in readiness, assisted by a detachment of the Queen's bays, and those who refused to join the combined workmen were furnished with arms for their protection. While families and furniture were handed to the door, in the presence of the authorities, no resistance was offered, but the evening gave "dreadful note of preparation." Many of the union men assembled in a group; several were armed, occasional shots were fired, and, as if to intimidate the new hands, to prevent others from being induced to join, and to overawe the masters, a terrible vengeance was taken upon one of the bound men, named John Errington, who was found the next morning, barbarously murdered. On the Monday morning the coroner, T. C. Maynard, esq., arrived, and a jury having been summoned, immediately proceeded with the inquest, when, after a long and tedious investigation, which lasted about ten days, the jury returned a verdict of "wilful murder" against George Strong and Turnbull as principals, and against John Moore, and Luke Hutton, as accessories before the fact. These persons were committed under an escort of cavalry (it being apprehended that a rescue would be attempted by their comrades, by whom they were loudly cheered), to Durham gaol to take their trials at the ensuing assizes. Errington was one of the few pitmen at Hetton colliery who had consented to be rebound, and had in consequence become obnoxious to the union men, of which body he had been a strenuous advocate, but had seceded from their councils. This sanguinary deed was perpetrated by firing two marbles into his body, and such was the savage joy of these demoniacs, that when the funeral of the murdered man was passing the doors of the pitmen, it was barbarously assailed with terrible yells and execrations.—*Ibid*.

May 1.—In consequence of the pitmen not agreeing with the coal-owners, and at the same time persisting to occupy the houses belonging to the latter, the work of ejection was still proceeding

at several of the collieries. On the above day (Tuesday), a sanguinary attack, was made upon the advanced party of forty-five lead miners (whom the owners had engaged), while on their way to Tyne main and Friars' Goose collieries, situated on the south side of the river Tyne, about two miles east of Newcastle. So violent was the assault, and so deadly the means resorted to, that two of the poor fellows were nearly killed, and the remainder were pelted with stones, and otherwise maltreated while at Gateshead. Measures were then taken to preserve the peace; special constables were sworn in on the Wednesday, and on the day following, the work of ejection was commenced at Friars' Goose, the pitman having kept possession of their houses a fortnight longer than the stipulated time. Scarcely, however, had the proceedings begun, when several hundreds of pitmen, &c., commenced a furious assault with stones and other missiles, and the ejecting party were obliged to seek safety in flight. In the afternoon, on the information of the outrage reaching Archibald Reed, esq., mayor of Newcastle, an additional number of constables were sworn, who, at eight o'clock on Friday morning, provided with firearms and cutlasses, proceeded under the direction of Mr. Thomas Forsyth, the town-marshal, but without the aid of the military, to finish the work of ejection. On reaching Friars' Goose, a great number of pitmen were assembled, in whose presence, Mr. Forsyth delivered to his men two rounds of cartridge, containing swan shot, with strict orders not to fire till commanded. He then advanced, and the pitmen gave three cheers in defiance. Mr. Forsyth exhorted the pitmen to commit no breach of the peace, but they lent a deaf ear to his advice, and were reinforced every moment with fresh arrivals. The police in the mean time proceeded in the execution of their duty, and having entered the house of a pitman named Thomas Carr, his wife obstinately refused to go out, and was carried to the door by two men on a chair. She seized the hat of a policeman, flourished it over her head, and cheered on the mob; Carr then came forward, and begged that his furniture might be carted away to Gateshead. This request was complied with, and John Lough, sergeant at mace, with a small party of assistants, were deputed to guard the two carts. They were speedily met by upwards of 100 pitmen from the Felling, who attacked the guard, and wounded three of the men. Soon after, another body of the people attacked the premises appointed as a guard-house, overpowered the sentry, and carried off the guns. The noise and shouting brought Mr. Forsyth to the spot; he drew his cutlass and endeavoured to make his way through the immense masses of men that interposed between himself and the police.

He was twice knocked down, and at length with great difficulty reached his companions, who were most unhappily stationed in a narrow lane, which was overlooked by a hill on each side, on which the pitmen stood, and threw brick bats, stones, &c., at them. The constables thus pressed, and considering their lives in danger, fired amongst the crowd, then making a rush, got out of their unfortunate position, and gained a rising ground to the east, near to Mr. Easton the viewer's house. Some of the pitmen fired at them as they retreated. Five or six of the pitmen were wounded, one of them severely. Mr. Forsyth was wounded in the head and leg rather severely with stones; one of the special constables was also severely cut about the head. The police, from the place of their retreat, sent off two men express to Newcastle, for the military, the pitmen suspecting their object, obstructed their passage as much as possible. About twelve o'clock, one of these messengers galloped through Newcastle, on his way to the barracks without a hat, and exhibiting a cut in his face, and had one of his ribs broken from the injuries he had received. The soldiers proceeded without delay to Friar's Goose, attended by the mayor of Newcastle, and the rev. Mr. Collinson, rector of Gateshead. No further disturbances had taken place, and by the time of their arrival, the men had in a great measure dispersed. The police proceeded to search all the houses in the neighbourhood, and apprehended upwards of forty persons on a charge of being concerned in these outrages. These, with others, who were apprehended on the Saturday, were lodged in the gaol of Newcastle, and on the Monday, upwards of twenty, including three women, were committed for trial at the next Durham assizes, and were sent off to the county gaol under an escort of cavalry. The remainder were either bound over to keep the peace, or discharged.—

Local Papers.



1832 (May 10.)—Died, at his house in Northumberland-street, Newcastle, aged 54, Christopher Cookson, esq., B. A., barrister-at-law, recorder of Newcastle and Berwick-upon-Tweed. He was the fifth of the seven sons of the late Isaac Cookson, of Whitehill, county of Durham, esq., who died at the advanced age of 89 years. He was educated under the rev. William Fleming, M. A., at the grammar-school of Houghton-le-spring, and thence went as a commoner to Christ

church, Oxford, where he took the degree of B. A. Having been called to the bar at Lincoln's inn, he settled as a provincial counsellor

at Newcastle, where his family had influential connections; and on the resignation of Robert Hopper Williamson, esq., was elected recorder without opposition. Mr. Cookson was a sound lawyer, and had acquired a great local knowledge of men and manners; he possessed a correct judgment, and a manner which made considerable impression on a jury. In private life, he was characterized by the strictest integrity, and the most gentlemanly feeling. Mr. Cookson died suddenly of an attack of apoplexy.—*Gent's. Mag.*

1832 (May 12).—The first number of a newspaper entitled "The Newcastle Journal," was printed and published in Newcastle, "by Hernaman and Perring, the proprietors, at 69, Pilgrim-street."

May 15.—In consequence of the resignation of earl Grey, a public meeting was held in the Spital, Newcastle, "to take into consideration and adopt such measures as may be deemed expedient in the present eventful state of public affairs." Notwithstanding the unfavourable state of the weather numerous bodies of persons began to arrive at an early hour from the country, and from some of the neighbouring collieries, many of them accompanied by bands of music, banners, &c., and after parading through some of the principal streets, repaired to the place of meeting. Mr. Mayor not being present Dr. Headlam occupied the chair. The meeting was addressed by the chairman, James Losh, Thomas Doubleday, J. B. Wright, and John Fife, esqrs., and by Messrs. Larkin, Donkin, &c. &c. The chairman having read and put the resolutions to the meeting, they were carried by acclamation. An address to the king, and a petition to the House of Commons, were also carried unanimously.—*Local Papers.*

Similar meetings took place at Durham, Darlington, Gateshead, Alnwick, North Shields, and at various other places in Northumberland and Durham.—*Ibid.*

Same day, about eleven o'clock at night, an alarming fire broke out in the premises occupied by Mr. George Heslop, currier, Mill-street, Sunderland. By the prompt assistance of the engines, the flames were got under in about three hours, after having destroyed the first and second floors, and the principal part of the roof.—*Ibid.*

The early part of this month, the skeleton of a female, without a head, was discovered by a mason digging a well in Moor-gate-street, Sunderland.—*Ibid.*

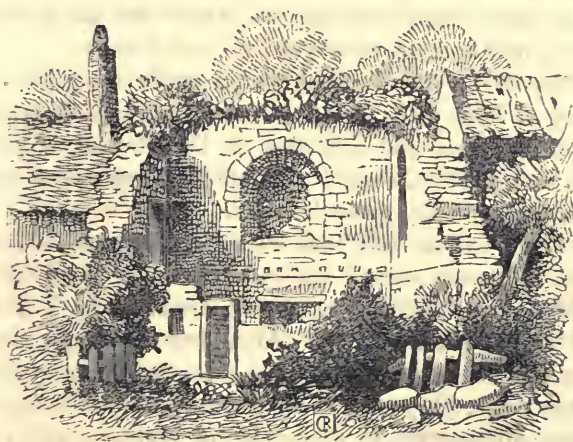
May 23.—A singular anonymous letter of this date was received by the Tyne Iron Company. The following is a copy:—"Fourteen years ago, I was a workmen in your Lemington works, and was in the habit of pilfering little trifling things, only a pennyworth at a time. I have got converted to God, through the Wesleyan ministry, and they teach that restitution is necessary to salvation. God has par-

doned me, and I hope you will do the same. My conscience tells me I must have taken at different times to the amount of 40s. ; and, I am told, money at interest doubles itself in fourteen years. I enclose you £5, hoping that you will never oppose the Wesleyan Methodists. May 23rd, 1832." The company presented the £5. to the Gateshead Dispensary.—*Local Papers*.

1832 (May 25).—The foundation stone of a new church at Slaley, in Northumberland, was laid by the rev. Christopher Bird, vicar of Chollerton, in the presence of the clergy of the neighbourhood, the principal inhabitants, and a large concourse of people. The old church had become little better than a mass of ruins, and totally unfit for the celebration of divine service.—*Ibid*.

May 26.—A general meeting of the pitmen of the Tyne and Wear, was held on Boldon-fell. The meeting was addressed by Mr. T. Hepburn and several others, who moved and seconded a series of resolutions, but their observations contained nothing that betokened a speedy arrangement of the differences with the coal-owners.—*Ibid*.

May 30.—A man named Robson, a workman at Heaton lime-kiln, near Newcastle, incautiously ventured on the top of the kiln, which gave way, and he sunk down into the burning lime. Several men immediately proceeded to the spot, and lost no time in rendering every assistance, but the unfortunate man was dead before they could get him out. He had been married only three days.—*Ibid*.



RUINS AT HEATON. INTERIOR (1839).

The same day a pit which had been sunk at Wooler, in Northumberland, for the purpose of obtaining water, fell in whilst Mr. S. Morton, was employed in making some alterations at the bottom

of it. The pit was about thirty six feet deep, and was built round entirely with bricks without lime. All the bricks, to within five or six feet of the bottom, gave way, and a great quantity of earth having fallen in along with them, the pit was in an instant filled up to within five or six feet of the surface. As soon as the alarm was given, a number of people immediately crowded to the spot, but on seeing the pit so completely choked up, every person despaired of rendering the unfortunate man any assistance. A number of men, however, commenced to clear out the pit; and in order to accomplish the work as expeditiously as possible, an express was sent to Doddington colliery to procure the assistance of some pitmen, they being well acquainted with work of that description. The men in a very short time arrived, and used their utmost exertions in getting the earth and bricks taken out of the pit. When they had proceeded about fifteen feet below the surface, they were astonished on hearing Morton calling from the bottom. They of course replied to him, and thus stimulated, they continued, with increased exertions, till they at length got him safely drawn to the top. Mr. Morton was so situated all the while at the bottom, that he could neither move leg nor arm, he was so firmly enclosed with earth and bricks, that, after the workmen had got his head and arms cleared, it required a considerable time longer to disengage the rest of his body. As there were upwards of thirty cart load of bricks, besides a great quantity of earth taken out of the pit, the miserable condition in which he was placed beneath the ground for the space of nine or ten hours, may be easily conceived.—*Local Papers.*

1832 (May 30).—The Durham church estate bill, “for separating the Rectory of Easington, in the county of Durham, from the Archdeaconry of Durham, and annexing in lieu thereof, a prebend or canonry in the cathedral church at Durham,” was read a third time in the House of lords and passed.—*Ibid.*

May.—There was at this time living at Ferryhill, in the county of Durham, a woman named Catherine Moralee, of the astonishing age of 112½ years. She was born at Leyburn, in Yorkshire, on the 22nd of November, 1719. After her marriage, she resided several years in Newcastle, and was the mother of ten children, all of whom are dead; they afterwards removed to the village of Middleton, near Merrington, in the county of Durham, and afterwards about thirty years ago, (being then a widow), she removed to Ferryhill. A gentleman who saw her at this time, obtained from herself the above particulars. Her sight and hearing were a little impaired, but her memory was remarkably retentive.—*Ibid.*

June 1.—The royal assent was given by commission to the Har-

tlepool docks and railway bill, and also to the Hartlepool pier bill.—*Local Papers.*

1832 (June 1).—In the House of Commons, the Newcastle and Carlisle railway bill, was read a third time and passed.—*Ibid.*

June 2.—The first market for swine (which before had been held in the High Bridge, Newcastle) was held in and upon a piece of ground belonging to the corporation of that town, westward of the Forth, and adjoining the live cattle market, on the above day (Saturday), and to be continued on that day in every week.—*Ibid.*

June 5.—Was laid, the foundation stone of a new bridge across the Tees at Blackwell-ford, designed by Mr. Green, architect, Newcastle. It is constructed of freestone, principally from the quarries on Gatherley moor; and consists of three elliptical arches, the central one being seventy-eight feet, and the two side arches each sixty three feet span. It opens a much nearer line of communication with the north west of Yorkshire, Westmoreland, &c., and shortens the distance to Richmond, several miles.—*Ibid.*

June 7.—By the Reform Act 2 Will. IV. c. 45, which received the royal assent this day, a great extension of the elective franchise was established. By this act the counties of Northumberland and Durham were respectively formed into two divisions, North and South, each division to return two Knights of the Shire. Sunderland was created a new Borough, with the privilege of returning two members. Gateshead, South Shields, and Tynemouth, were created new Boroughs, with the privilege of returning one member each.

ELECTIONS.

SOUTH DURHAM.—Joseph Pease, jun. esq.; John Bowes, esq. Election 21st and 22nd December.

NORTH DURHAM.—Hedworth Lambton, esq.; Sir Hedworth Williamson, bart. Election 18th and 19th of December. Returning officer,—The high sheriff.

SOUTH NORTHUMBERLAND.—Thomas Wentworth Beaumont, esq.; Matthew Bell, esq.

NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND.—Lord visc. Howick; Lord Ossulston.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.—Sir Matthew White Ridley, bart.; John Hodgson, esq.

TYNEMOUTH.—George Frederick Young, esq.

DURHAM CITY.—William Charles Harland, esq.; William Richard Carter Chaytor, esq. Election, 12th and 12th December. Returning officer,—The Mayor of Durham.

SUNDERLAND.—Sir William Chaytor, bart.; Hon. George Barrington, R. N. Election, 12th and 13th December. Returning officer,—Addison Fenwick, esq.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—Robert Ingham, esq. Election, 11th and 12th of December. Returning officer,—Richard Shortridge, esq.

GATESHEAD.—Cuthbert Rippon, esq. Election, 12th of December. Returning officer,—John Dobson, esq.—*Local Papers.*

1832 (June 9).—In the evening a meeting was held in the town-hall of Darlington, Thomas Bowes, esq., bailiff of Darlington, in the chair, when it was unanimously resolved, to express their satisfaction on the occasion of the passing of the reform bill, by giving a public dinner to the operatives of the town. For carrying this purpose into effect, a committee was nominated, to whom the necessary arrangements were intrusted. The following Tuesday being a holiday, was fixed upon as a suitable day, the committee thinking it better not to take the people from their work. The members of the committee, and other gentlemen, as well as several ladies, purchased tickets for the dinner, which they distributed gratis. Three large oxen were bought, with a suitable proportion of bread, ale, and vegetables, besides a large supply of plum pudding, which was furnished by the liberality of private individuals and of the principal inn-keepers, the latter of whom undertook to cook the provisions. In order to ensure regularity in the proceedings, every department was allotted to committees of three or four gentlemen, the benefit of which was evident, from the admirable arrangements that were made. On Monday evening, deputies from all the trades in the town met the committee at the town-hall, and received from them general directions, the execution of which was committed to Mr. George Elwin, by whose very spirited and skilful exertions all the trades were marshalled under their respective banners. The order in which they were to march was fixed by ballot, and the numbers were ascertained that would join the procession on Tuesday morning. The Darlington and West Auckland bands volunteered their services, and were provided with tickets for the dinner. The procession marched round the town-boundaries and through the principal streets, the bands playing, bells ringing, guns firing in all directions, and colours waving from the windows, roofs, and chimneys in the whole town. Upwards of 3000 men walked in the ranks, and so far as could be calculated, above 12,000 people were congregated on the occasion, peace and good order were effectually maintained, not more by the judicious arrangements of the committee than by the good sense of the men themselves. The men of one tan yard had previously agreed to fine any one of their number 5s. who should be in a state of intoxication on that day. After perambulating the town, which occupied nearly two hours, the whole body was drawn up round the market place. The bands which had continued playing during the march, then ceased,

and, with the music, terminated the acclamations of the people; for a minute there was a dead pause, all heads were uncovered, and at a given signal, three cheers, uttered from thousands of British bosoms, rose to the skies. The various companies, under their respective banners and leaders, then filed off in double columns to the tables that had been appointed for them, till all were stationed. This was done before dinner time, that every man might know his own place, without the confusion of seeking for a vacancy. The people were then dismissed for an hour to rest themselves, and to allow all the dinner orders to be forwarded. At three o'clock the trades arrived and took their assigned places at the tables, on which the attendants expeditiously placed the smoking viands. During dinner, the delegates and gentlemen of the committee were engaged either in carving for, or waiting on, the people; and at 4 o'clock they assembled at the workhouse, in a spacious room fitted up for the occasion, and dined together, thus concluding, in festive harmony, a day of rejoicing such as was never before witnessed in the North of England.

Local Papers.

1832 (June 11).—About five o'clock in the afternoon, as Nicholas Fairles, esq., of South Shields, a magistrate for the county of Durham, was riding to Jarrow colliery he was accosted by two pitmen, under the pretence of asking charity, when one of them took hold of his hand, and the other seized him and dragged him from his horse; one of the men then gave him a violent blow on the head with a brick, when they fell upon him, and after kicking and beating him most unmercifully, left him on the road in an almost lifeless state. The transaction having been observed from a house at a short distance, assistance was immediately sent to him. From the dreadful nature of the wounds which Mr. Fairles received on his skull, he lingered until June the 21st, when he expired. One of the villains was apprehended, but the other escaped. His majesty's government offered a reward of three hundred pounds, and the vestry of St. Hilda, one hundred pounds, for the better apprehending and bringing to justice the persons concerned in this diabolical transaction. A coroner's inquest was held on the body, at South Shields, and a verdict of wilful murder returned against William Jobling and Ralph Armstrong, (the former of whom was in custody). It having been announced by a mourning placard that the funeral of the deceased would take place on Wednesday the 27th, several gentlemen, holding high official situations in the town and neighbourhood, expressed their wish to take part in the procession. On the morning, the flag on the church steeple, and those of the several ships in the harbour, were hoisted half-staff high, and most of the shops in the town were closed. At ten o'clock, the

mayor of Newcastle, accompanied by W. Surtees, esq., the sheriff, and Mr. Alderman Sorsbie, arrived at the town-hall, and soon after, the chairman of the quarter sessions, for Durham; the rev. Mr. Baker, rector of Whitburn; the rev. Mr. Collinson, rector of Gateshead; and the rev. Mr. Hollingsworth, rector of Boldon; Bryan Abbs, and William Loraine, esqrs., magistrates; James Edgecome, esq., collector of the customs at Newcastle, and several other gentlemen of the neighbourhood, together with the churchwardens, vestrymen, and respectable householders, joined the family of the deceased in following his remains to the grave. The pall was borne by the rev. Robt. Green, of Newcastle, lieut. col. Craster, Cuthbert Young, Jeremiah Archer, Christopher Bainbridge, John Straker, Henry Major, and John Hedley, esqrs. The coffin was made out of a tree cut down for the purpose, which had been planted when Mr. Fairles came of age. It bore the following inscription, "Nicholas Fairles, died 21 June, 1832, aged 71 years."—*Local Papers*.

1832 (June 15.)—Between six and seven o'clock on the morning, an awful calamity occurred at Philadelphia, Newbottle colliery, by the explosion of a steam engine boiler on lord Durham's railroad, whereby five individuals were killed and thirteen dreadfully bruised, three of whom afterwards died. The workmen were in the act of repairing the boiler at the time of the explosion, which, together with large pieces of metal pipes, &c., were thrown to a great distance. The machine house was demolished, and stones, bricks, &c., scattered in all directions; the dwelling house adjoining the machine was also blown down upon the family of Robert Sheldon, when three of his children, and his father, Joseph Sheldon, aged 87 years, were killed; his wife had her arm broken while endeavouring to rescue her infant, and a little girl was much bruised. A boy and his grandmother were in the house, but escaped unhurt.—*Ibid.*

June 16.—Another meeting of the pitmen of the Tyne and Wear, took place on Boldon-fell; but there was a great falling off in numbers. At this meeting it was determined that the men unemployed should remain so for ten weeks, and then, if no agreement could be come to, a general strike would be a matter for their consideration.—*Ibid.*

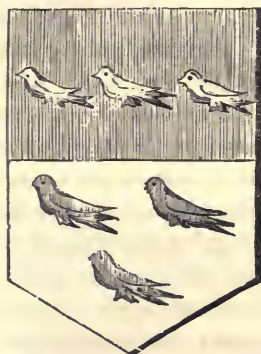
June 19.—The foundation stone of a new Independent chapel was laid in Dundas-street, Monkwearmouth.—*Ibid.*

July 2.—In the evening, the opening of the new building of the Alnwick Scientific and Mechanical Institution, was celebrated by a public supper in the Town-hall, John Lambert, esq., in the chair. The members walked in procession from the Star inn, preceded by the Northumberland band of music and several flags. Mr. Lambert

delivered an introductory address on the advantages of science, to the members and other auditors, in the lecture room belonging to the institution.—*Local Papers.*

1832 (July 4).—There was a public dinner at Sedgefield, in the county of Durham, in celebration of the passing of the reform bill, when nearly 100 persons partook of roast beef and plum pudding.—*Ibid.*

July 4.—The royal assent was given by commission to the Durham University bill.—*Ibid.*



July 7.—Died of apoplexy, at Pendennis castle, of which he was lieutenant governor, lieutenant colonel William Fenwick, C. B. and K. T. S. He was the youngest son of the late Thomas Fenwick, of Earsdon, in Northumberland, esq., at which place he was born in the year 1777. In 1792 he joined the 34th regiment of foot, in which he served at Walcheren, and in the West Indies. Lieut. col. Fenwick was present at the reduction of St. Vincents, and in

several engagements with the enemy during that period. He subsequently served at the Cape of Good Hope, in the East Indies, and in the Peninsula. He was severely wounded in the knee at the Maya Pass, in the Pyrenees, on the 25th of July, 1813, in consequence of which he suffered amputation very high up the right thigh, and on his arrival in England, was appointed lieutenant governor of Pendennis castle; and soon after made a companion of the Bath. The gazette of April the 9th, 1816, contained the Prince Regent's (afterwards George IV.) permission to lieutenant colonel Fenwick, to accept the Portuguese order of the Tower and Sword, conferred upon him by the prince regent of Portugal, for his distinguished courage in the Peninsula. He had also the honour of wearing a medal for the battle of Albuera, and a clasp for that of Vittoria.—*Ibid.*

July 7.—The Newcastle Courant newspaper having been purchased by Messrs. John Blackwell and Co., their first paper "No. 8215," was dated as above. This journal has now (1844) been published one hundred and thirty-three years, and has only had during that time the following proprietors, viz:—Mr. John White, afterwards joined in partnership by Mr. Thomas Saint, who on Mr. White's death in 1769, became sole proprietor. After the death of Mr. Saint in 1788, it passed to Messrs. Hall and Elliot, and by the executors of Mr. Hall, was in the year 1796, sold to Mr. Edward Walker, by whose death in 1831, it became the property of Mr. Cook. Two of the above (Mr. White and Mr. Walker), had the proprietorship for

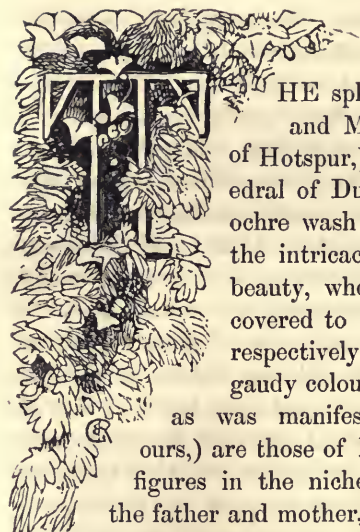
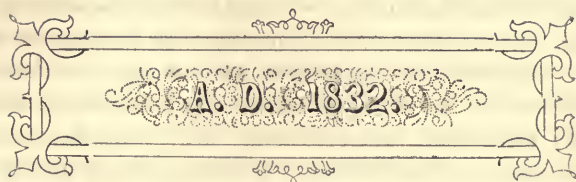
a period of ninety-three years. Besides being the first newspaper published north of the Trent, it has another peculiar feature, being the first paper in the kingdom which was printed on a Stanhope press, and that press, on improved principles, was made in Newcastle.—*Local Rec., &c.*

1832 (July 8).—In the evening of this day (Sunday), Cuthbert Skipsey, a pitman belonging to Percy Main colliery, was unfortunately shot at Chirton, near North Shields, in an affray between some pitmen and special constables, the latter of whom were appointed to protect such of the workmen as were unconnected with the strike among the colliers. At the inquest, which was held on the Tuesday at the Rose inn, Willington, before Stephen Reed, esq., coroner, much contradictory evidence was given—the police party stating that there was a general row, and that Skipsey struggled with a policeman named George Weddell, to get possession of his pistol, whilst the witnesses on the other side stated that the deceased went up to Weddell to endeavour to make peace, and that Weddell immediately pushed him back and shot him. The jury after an hour's consultation, returned a verdict of manslaughter against Weddell, who was admitted to bail to appear at the assizes. August 3rd, after a trial which continued about twelve hours, Weddell was found guilty of manslaughter, and sentenced to six months' imprisonment and hard labour.—*Local Papers.*



ENTRANCE TO CHIRTON FROM THE EAST (1832).

CHAPTER VI.



THE splendid altar tomb of John lord Nevill and Matilda Percy, his wife, (the daughter of Hotspur,) which stands in the nave of the cathedral of Durham, was, in 1832, purified from the ochre wash which had for many a year choked up the intricacies of its carvings, and concealed its beauty, when portions of its ornaments were discovered to have been originally gilt, and others respectively painted with blue, vermillion, and other gaudy colours. The bearings on the tomb (once, as was manifest, emblazoned in their proper colours,) are those of Nevill and Percy alternately; and the figures in the niches are said to represent the issues of the father and mother, whose mutilated images are extended above. Of those, one is represented as turning its back upon the spectator. He or she may have been a monk or a nun; but more probably a child, who, in its early days, had turned its back upon the world, and had gone to its Maker:

“Oh what a happie thing it is to lie

“In the nurses arms a week or two, and die.”

The mutilated state of the altar-tombs in this cathedral, with their superincumbent figures, is attributed to the Scotch prisoners imprisoned in the church after the battle of Dunbar, in 1650. It is said that they were at least 4500 in number, that “they miserably defaced the church within,” and that “most of them perished and died there in a very short space, and were thrown into holes by great numbers together in a most lamentable manner.”—*Raine's Dur. Cath.*

1832 (July 20).—Died, in All Saints' poor-house, in Newcastle, William Purvis, better known as *Blind Wille*.—*Local Papers*.

August 1.—William Jobling was tried at the assizes at Durham, and found guilty of the murder of Nicholas Fairles, esq. He was sentenced to be hanged on Friday, August the 3rd, and his body to be afterwards hung in chains near the scene of the murder. Soon after twelve o'clock on that day, Jobling suffered the extreme penalty of the law, on the drop erected in front of the county courts at Durham. After his condemnation, he was very attentive to his religious duties, and he exhibited on his way to and upon the scaffold, the utmost resignation and fortitude. He acknowledged, while in prison, the justice of his sentence, though he denied having been the principal in the fatal transaction which led to his ignominious death; he earnestly entreated a reverend gentleman, who attended him, to express to Mrs. Fairles and her family, his sorrow for what had taken place, and to assure her and them, that when he met Mr. Fairles, which was accidental, he had no intention to harm him. He hoped they would forgive him, as he sincerely forgave all mankind who had at any time done him any injury. His step was firm as he entered upon the scaffold, but the power of articulation failed him, and he was in consequence unable to address the spectators, as he had stated it to be his intention to do. After hanging an hour, the body was cut down and conveyed into the gaol, where it remained until the gibbet was ready. It was a very wet day, consequently the crowd was not so numerous as was anticipated. Fifty of the 8th hussars mounted, and fifty of the 15th regiment of foot, were drawn up in front of the drop, where they remained until the body was cut down. A portion of these regiments had marched from Newcastle to Durham for the purpose, and also to escort the body to Jarrow Slake. After the body was conveyed into the gaol, the clothes were taken off, but no incision made, it was then covered over with pitch, and the clothes in which he was hanged were replaced. On Monday morning, August the 6th, at seven o'clock, the body was taken in a small four wheeled waggon drawn by two horses, from Durham, escorted by a troop of hussars, and two companies of infantry, T. Griffith, esq., the under sheriff, Mr. Frushard, the gaoler, officers of the gaol, bailiffs, &c., &c. They proceeded by way of Chester-le-Street, Picktree, Sludge-row, Porto Bello, over the Black Fell, to White mare Pool, and thence by the South Shields turnpike road, to Jarrow Slake, where they arrived at half past one o'clock. The spectators were not numerous, perhaps about 1,000, and not many pitmen amongst them, on account it was supposed, of a meeting being held by them that day on Boldon Fell. On the arrival of the caval-

cade at Jarrow Slake, it was joined by Bryan Abbs and William Lorraine, esqrs., magistrates of the county; the military were then drawn up, and formed two sides of a square, the cavalry on the right, and the infantry on the left. The body was then lifted from the waggon, and was cased in flat bars of iron of two and a half inches in breadth, the feet were placed in stirrups, from which a bar of iron went up each side of the head, and ended in a ring by which he was suspended; a bar from the collar went down the breast, and another down the back; there were also bars in the inside of the legs which communicated with the above; and cross bars at the ankles, the knees, the thighs, the breast and shoulders; the hands were hung by the sides, and covered with pitch; the face was pitched and covered with a piece of white cloth. Being laid on a hand barrow, the body was conveyed to the gibbet, which was fixed nearly opposite the spot where the murder was committed, and about one hundred yards within the Slake from high water mark. The gibbet, which was fixed in a stone, one and a half ton weight sunk in the Slake, was formed of a square piece of timber twenty-one feet long, and a top projecting about three feet, with strong bars of iron up each side to prevent its being sawn down. At high water the tide covered the gibbet about four or five feet, leaving sixteen or seventeen feet visible. The body being hoisted up and secured, a police guard was placed near the spot, and remained there for some time. Jobling was the first person gibbeted under the new act of parliament, ordering the bodies of murderers to be hung in chains. The body, when gibbeted, had on the clothes in which the criminal appeared upon his trial:—his head was thrown quite back, so that his face appeared as if looking upwards. During the very dark night between the 31st of August and the 1st of September, Jobling's body was stolen from the gibbet and secretly disposed of by some persons unknown.—*Local Papers*.

1832 (Aug. 1).—An inquisition, founded on a commission of escheat issued under the great seal, was taken at the Queen's Head inn, Newcastle, before William Wightman and James Losh, esqrs., barristers at law, and George Maule, esq., solicitor to the treasury and a respectable jury, when it was found that William Moulton, formerly of the Castle Garth in that town, skinner and glover, deceased, was at the time of his death seised of certain property, called the Ship Entry, in the Old Flesh Market in that town; that he made a will devising the property for a charitable purpose, but which by the statute of mortmain was void, and that he died in December, 1772, without an heir, that the property became vested in the crown, as an escheat, but it was understood that it was probable his majesty would be graciously pleased to direct that it should be applied ac-



OLD FLESH MARKET (NOW CLOTH MARKET) AT THE PERIOD.

according to William Moulton's intentions, as expressed in his will. This point was gained on a petition of the parish officers of St. Nicholas, by whose exertions and attention, the poor of the parish derived a considerable benefit, after a lapse of nearly sixty years.—*Local Papers.*

1832 (August 8).—The passing of the reform bills was celebrated at Berwick, including Tweedmouth and Spital, which form but one united borough, the procession, dinners, &c., went off with great eclat. The illumination in the evening was beautiful and general, almost every house presenting a blaze of light.—*Ibid.*

August 11.—A most dreadful murder was committed at Horneliff, upon the river Tweed, near Berwick. Two young men of the names of Paxton and Percy, had a dispute about a game cock, which led to frequent quarrels between them, and, on the day above-mentioned, they again came to high words, and eventually to blows. While this was going on, Percy's father, an old man, procured a large knife, and deliberately attacking his son's opponent, stabbed him in the belly, cutting him across, so that his bowels, as he fell, protruded. He then turned upon Paxton's brother, and stabbed him in several places. The first victim lingered till the following morning (Sunday), in great agony, when death relieved him from his sufferings, the other young

man was in a hopeless state. Old Percy retired to a corn field and cut his own throat, but not effectually, as he was found bleeding shortly after, and the wound having been attended to, he was in a few days removed to Durham gaol.—*Local Papers*.

1832 (Aug. 14).—The members of the Northern Political Union celebrated the passing of the reform bills, by a public dinner in the Spital field, in Newcastle, the use of which had been readily granted by Archibald Reed, esq., mayor. A large canvas covering was erected, under which the tables, calculated to accommodate 1,000 persons, were fixed, but not half of that number were present. Charles Attwood, esq., of Whickham occupied the chair, and Messrs. Thomas Doubleday and Charles Larkin officiated as vice-chairmen. The meat which remained after this dinner, was on the following day distributed among upwards of 300 persons, and soup and rolls of bread to upwards of 400 persons.—*Ibid*.

August 24.—The right honourable earl Grey, first lord of the treasury, having left London for his seat, Howick hall, in Northumberland, was enthusiastically cheered at almost every town through which he passed. On the above day his lordship arrived at Lambton castle, the seat of lord Durham, and on the following day (Saturday), passed through Newcastle on his way northward. The bells in the churches of Gateshead and Newcastle were rung on the occasion.—*Ibid*.

August 25.—Barnardcastle and its neighbourhood were visited by a dreadful thunder-storm, accompanied by a whirlwind, which completely unroofed a thatched house, and laid the inmates senseless on the floor, but without further injuring them; a large stack of hay was thrown down, and a person, named Armstrong, who was breaking stones on the road, was lifted off his feet, and thrown to the ground without being much hurt. The whirlwind crossed the river Tees, tore up some large trees near Lartington hall, and killed a calf in a field belonging to Mr. George Dixon, of Cotherstone. The Tees rose to a great height, and the road between Barnardcastle and Bowes, was rendered almost impassable.—*Ibid*.

August 26.—About four o'clock on the morning, one of the most dreadful showers of hail ever experienced, took place at Stockton. The demolition of glass alone amounted to upwards of £200. Great damage was also sustained in the gardens and orchards in the immediate vicinity of that town.—*Ibid*.

August 27.—The members of the Sunderland political union, and other friends of reform, celebrated the passing of the reform bills by a public dinner in a large field near Waterloo-place. The tables were arranged under a spacious canvas covering, and were well sup-

plied with beef, ham, plum-puddings, &c. About 670 persons sat down to dinner. Near the conclusion, the pressure and uproarious conduct of the crowd which had carried all before it, and broke in upon the meeting, beggared all description, and rendered the scene truly ludicrous.—*Local Papers.*

1832 (Aug. 27).—A fire broke out about nine o'clock at night, in the workshop of Mr. Thomas Scott, cart-wright, Orchard street, Newcastle, which raged with great fury, and threatened the destruction of the adjoining buildings. The engines were speedily on the spot, but could not prevent the loss of the whole of the building. Mr. Scott's loss was estimated at £450; his stock of timber and tools being entirely destroyed. No part of it was insured.—*Ibid.*

August 28.—The new chapel at Duddo, in the parish of Norham, was opened with the usual ceremonies. It is a neat specimen of Saxon architecture, from a design by Mr. Bonomi, of Durham, and affords accommodation (the sittings being all free) for about 250 persons.—*Ibid.*

August.—At this time the cholera morbus again raged in Newcastle and various other towns of Northumberland and Durham, some of which had not been visited by the disease in the winter of this year.—*Ibid.*

September 3.—The "Northern Academy of Arts" in Blackett-street, Newcastle, having been disposed of in shares of twenty-five pounds each, and its title changed to that of "The Newcastle-upon-Tyne Institution for the General Promotion of the Fine Arts;" the exhibition of pictures, sculpture, &c. was opened for the first season, on the above day.—*Ibid.*

September 5.—Died, at his house at the Leazes-terrace, Newcastle, Thomas Trotter, M. D. He was a native of Roxburghshire, and received his classical and medical education at the college of Edinburgh. In the year 1782, when very young, he was appointed surgeon in the royal navy, and having been a voyage in the African slave trade, he was called before a committee of the house of commons, to give evidence against that horrid traffic in human flesh. In 1785, he settled at Wooler, in Northumberland, and having passed through the different examinations at the college of Edinburgh, he obtained the degree of M. D. in 1788; the following year he was appointed to the flag ship of his friend and neighbour admiral Roddam. In December 1793, he was appointed physician to the royal hospital at Portsmouth, and in the following April was nominated physician to the channel fleet, by earl Howe, without any previous application, but merely in compliment to his professional studies devoted to the health of seamen. The medical duty of the fleet was

an incessant and laborious task for nearly nine years. In June 1795, after the battle off Groa, the doctor received a severe personal injury in ascending a ship's side, during a tremendous swell of the sea, to visit a wounded officer (captain Grindall, of the *Irresistable* of 74 guns), which incapacitated him for all active duty in boats, and from that period he was under the necessity of confining himself for some hours of every day, to a horizontal posture to relieve the painful effects of that misfortune, which daily increased. After his quitting the navy in 1802, he settled in Newcastle until the year 1827, when he retired to Roxburghshire, but had returned to Newcastle only a few months before his death. Doctor Trotter was the author of the following works, viz.:—"Medicina Nautica," 3 vols.; "Observations on Scurvy;" "Medical and Chemical Essays;" "Suspiria Oceani, a Monody on the death of Earl Howe;" "An Essay on Drunkenness;" "A View of the Nervous Temperament;" "The Noble Foundling, or, the Hermit of the Tweed;" "A practical plan for manning the Royal Navy;" &c. Various of his poetic pieces appeared in the journals of the day. In 1829 he published a volume of poems entitled "Sea Weeds," with a portrait prefixed AN. ET. 37. A portrait of the doctor was given in the *European Magazine* for May 1796. There is a beautiful epitaph on a stone in St. Andrew's churchyard, Newcastle, to the memory of his first wife, written by the doctor.—*Gent's Mag.*, &c.

1832 (Sept. 6).—The passing of the reform bills was commemorated at Hexham, by a public procession and dinners at the respective club houses of each trade.—*Local Papers*.

September 10.—The passing of the reform bills was celebrated at Gateshead by a public dinner, to which nearly one hundred gentlemen sat down.—*Ibid*.

September 11.—Nearly two hundred gentlemen sat down to a public dinner at Mr. Fletcher's, the Turk's head inn, Newcastle to celebrate the passing of the reform bills.—*Ibid*.

September 20.—At a general meeting of the shareholders of the "Northern Joint Stock Bank," then about to be established in Newcastle, the following gentlemen were chosen directors:—Thomas Reed Batson, Nathaniel Grace, Thomas Brown, James Lowndes, Anthony Clapham, James Carr, Charles Attwood, George Burdis, John Scott, William Maude, esquires, and Lieutenant-General Austin. It was also determined, that Thomas Reed Batson, and Nathaniel Grace, esquires, should be managing directors. The business of the Bank, it was expected, would commence in a few weeks after, in apartments then being fitted up at the west end of the royal arcade, in Pilgrim street.—*Ibid*.

1832 (Sept. 25).—A whale was cast on shore at Coquet island, on the coast of Northumberland, which the keeper with the assistance of some Hauxley fishermen, succeeded in capturing, after firing several shots, and piercing it with a spear. It measured fifty feet.—*Local Papers.*

September 27.—About seven o'clock on the morning, a duel took place in Offerton lane, near Herrington, Durham, between Mr. Russell Bowlby, a candidate for South Shields, and Mr. Braddyll, a candidate for the northern division of that county. The same day, soon after twelve o'clock, another hostile meeting took place, at the sign of the Hare and Hounds, on the Sedgefield-road, between sir Hedworth Williamson, bart., and Mr. Braddyll, rival candidates for the northern division of the county. These duels arose out of expressions purporting to have been used in the speeches of the parties against each other.—*Ibid.*

September.—This month, part of the clergy of Northumberland and diocese of Durham, memorialized the right rev. William Van Mildert, lord bishop of Durham, and also his most gracious majesty king William IV., on a reform of the church. The memorial to their diocesan was signed by thirty-seven clergymen of the county of Northumberland, and that to his majesty was signed by forty-three clergymen of the same county.—*Ibid.*

October 2.—Being Michaelmas Monday, the day for the election of the mayor and other officers of the corporation of Newcastle, the burgesses met at the Guildhall for the purpose of auditing the accounts, &c., of the preceding year, when much angry feeling and determination to opposition were displayed; so much so, that they formed two parties in proceeding to St. Mary's hospital, the place of election—the one headed by Archibald Reed, esq., mayor, the other by alderman Wright. As much previous excitement by placards had been made, an unusually large body of the burgesses and other inhabitants attended the processions. On arriving at the place of election, some of the new electors, on their attempts to enter, having been opposed by the police, they withdrew and would not return, which occasioned a scene of violence and uproar, until about six o'clock, when the meeting was adjourned to nine o'clock, when they again met, and the same confusion took place, and continued till near twelve o'clock, when the meeting was again adjourned to ten o'clock the next morning, without proceeding one step in the election. Summonses were issued to the electors of the preceding year to attend at the appointed time, and a sufficient number of them having been procured, the business was quickly gone through, by electing John Brandling, esq., mayor, Henry Bell, esq., of Newbiggen, sheriff,



THE CHANCEL OF THE CHAPEL OF THE HOSPITAL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, WESTGATE-STREET, NEWCASTLE, AS IT APPEARED ON MARCH 28, 1844.

and the subordinate officers, which, it appears, was done with closed doors. The burgesses, who wished to bring in alderman Wright as chief magistrate, now finding their intentions frustrated, adjourned to the Spital-field, and having passed several resolutions, and votes of thanks to those individuals who had been most active in the cause of Mr. Wright, they determined to apply to his majesty, the house of lords, and the house of commons, for a revision of the charter. After the election of Mr. Brandling and the other officers, they proceeded to the mayor's chamber, in the Guildhall, where the common council of the preceding year were re-elected. Perhaps there never were before so much violence and delay in the election of the officers of Newcastle. It is on record, that upon a similar occasion, and on the same day of the month, violence had been used; and on another occasion, that the parties sat up all night.—*Local Papers*.

1832 (Oct. 3).—The passing of the reform bills was celebrated at Alnwick by a public dinner in the town-hall; upon which occasion, the chair was taken by sir Francis Blake, bart.—*Ibid*.

October 8.—The chapel of ease for the parish of St. John, Newcastle, at Benwell High cross, was consecrated by the lord bishop of Bristol, officiating for the bishop of Durham. The ground for this chapel and cemetery was given by John Buddle, esq., and the stone by John Hodgson, esq., M. P. for Newcastle. The entire cost of the erection was £1668. 14s. 5d.—*Treas. Accts*.

1832 (Oct. 9).—In consequence of the inclined and dangerous state of the beautiful steeple of St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle, it was found necessary to prop it with immense beams of timber, for the purpose of taking out the old foundation (which on examination was alarmingly bad), and putting in a new one of massive stone work, with strong abutments. On the above day, the workmen, whilst digging near the foundation of the tower, discovered two stone coffins, each about seven feet long, with a cavity for the head. They were found a little north of the west entrance, on the outside of the building, and at a very trifling depth below the pavement. When the stone covers were removed, the coffins were found to contain some human bones, and a large portion of earth. It was evident from the large quantity of human bones dug up, that this must have been a part of the ancient cemetery subsequently added to the street. The old entrance under the tower, called the south porch, was at this time taken down.—*Local Papers.*

October 10.—A new Wesleyan Methodist chapel was opened at Newburn, near this town. Appropriate sermons were preached on the occasion, by the rev. Valentine Ward.—*Ibid.*

October 15.—Considerable interest was excited among the sporting community in Newcastle, in consequence of the following match:—Capt. W. Lyons of the 8th Hussars, then lying in the barracks there, had undertaken for a wager of 1000 guineas, to ride 30 miles within the hour, on some day between the 17th and 26th of the month of October. On Monday the 13th, he rode twelve times round the race course, with apparent ease; and on the above day (Wednesday), it having been understood that the actual race was to come off, there was a large concourse of spectators, of all descriptions, upon the common, including several carriages of the neighbouring gentry. At half-past two, the captain started, and having ridden little more than five times round the course, during which he changed horses opposite the grand stand, six times, he desisted—opinions being various as to the probability of his ultimately accomplishing the feat. The distance actually gone over was between 9 and 10 miles, (the length of the course being one mile, 6 furlongs, 132 yards), and the time taken, 17 minutes and a fraction: so that during the experimental ride of one third of the distance, he was sufficiently within time—and the horses used, although beautiful creatures, were not considered the fleetest of a valuable stud of 18 belonging to capt. Lyons. The instantaneity of the action, by means of which, with the assistance of a stout hussar, he transferred himself from one horse to another, was truly surprising—and this manœuvre was greatly aided by the precision of training, which led each horse in a moment,

as it were, to make a full stop at the end of a round. Capt. Lyons was evidently a first rate equestrian; his weight 9st. 10lb. There were several amateur races, during the afternoon, in one of which six officers, in jockey colours, made a good appearance during a short run.—*Local Papers.*

1832 (Oct. 15).—The capital mansion called ^MMorton lodge, near Stockton-upon-Tees, the property and residence of the rev. T. M. Rudd, was entirely destroyed by fire.—*Ibid.*

October 15.—The sexton of Hexham abbey, with an assistant were busied in constructing a grave of unusual dimensions, in the burying ground on the west side of the church, and near to the wall of the north transept, found, at the depth of eight feet, a great quantity of old coins enclosed in a metallic case, together with a crown, cap, or helmet, of peculiar construction, deposited in a stone coffin, either dilapidated or originally consisting of several stones. They are various in size, but generally very small, and formed of different metals. The workmanship is rude in the extreme, but on removing the mould from the surface of the coin, the letters were found quite legible. Such as were brought to Newcastle seem to belong to the period of Ethelred's reign, when the troublesome incursions of our northern neighbours, and the frequent levies of Dane-Geld would lead to various modes of secreting money. This bag was in a high state of preservation.—*Arch. Æliana., &c.*

October 20.—The premises of Mr. John Turnbull, cabinet maker, situate in Clive street, on the Ropery bank, North Shields, were consumed by fire. The workmen retired from their labour a little after 5 o'clock and nothing was perceived till half past 7 o'clock, when the shop was discovered to be filled with flames and smoke. Immediate assistance was rendered and the fire engines were presently on the spot. The fire was supposed to have been completely extinguished by twelve o'clock the same night; but in consequence of some casks of oil, turpentine, &c., which were in the premises below the workshop, having burst from the excessive heat, and their contents having spread over the dying embers, occasioned by the falling of the roof and the floor, the devouring element again burst out, at about 5 o'clock on Sunday morning, when it became necessary once more for the engines to play. Happily no further damage was done. The premises and furniture were only partially insured. Great apprehensions were entertained for the safety of the adjoining buildings. It was conjectured the fire must have originated by some soot having fallen from the chimney into the fire place, particles of which, in a state of combustion, had communicated the flame to a quantity of shavings. The workmen each lost their chest of

tools, some of which were worth £10. to £12. The estimated damage was about £600. or £700.—*Local Papers.*

1832 (Oct. 22).—Four young women and a boy, belonging to the new town of Bishopwearmouth, went into an excavation under Claxheugh-rock on the other side of the river Wear to obtain sandy stone. While they were so engaged, a part of the projecting cliff gave way and fell upon them. The noise of the fall, attracted the attention of some persons who were at a short distance, who instantly visited the place, and observed the hand of the boy uncovered, which led to the discovery of the sufferers. About sixty tons of stone, &c., which had fallen, being cleared away, the bodies were taken out, three of them lifeless. The boy and one of the girls were much injured, but were taken out alive.—*Ibid.*

November 2.—A numerous and respectable assemblage of burgesses took place in the Assembly-rooms, Newcastle, for the purpose of presenting a very handsome silver tureen, of the value of £100, to Archibald Reed, esq., as a token of regard for his services as a magistrate of Newcastle. It bore the following inscription:—"Presented to Archibald Reed, Esq., Mayor of the Town of Newcastle upon Tyne, on the conclusion of his sixth mayoralty, by his friends and well-wishers, burgesses of that town, as a mark of personal regard, and a tribute to his high character and valuable services as a magistrate."—*Ibid.*

November 3.—About ten o'clock in the evening, a large hay-stack, worth £100., the property of Charles Attwood, esq., was observed to be on fire in a close near the village of Dunston, in the county of Durham. An immediate alarm was given, engines were got to the place, and some part of the hay, and several corn stacks adjoining, were saved.—*Ibid.*

November 4.—An old man named John Blakey, one of the king's beadsmen of Durham cathedral, (after being absent from home since Saturday forenoon,) was found dead at the bottom of Kepier pit, near Durham, on Sunday morning, by two men who descended the colliery at that time for the purpose of feeding the horses which were down. His hat and neckcloth being found at the top of the shaft, and his previous desponding state of mind, left little doubt that the unfortunate old man had thrown himself down for the purpose of self destruction.—*Ibid.*

November 5.—Monday, as Wm. Ridley, one of the furnace-men at Felling colliery, was at the bottom of the pit filling ashes to send to bank; while shaking the chain to give the men at the top notice to draw the corf up, they instantly drew it away, and the chain being coiled at the bottom caught his leg, by which he was drawn without

injury up the shaft to the bank, a depth of 120 fathoms, through a great quantity of smoke arising from the two furnaces he had just previously fired.—*Local Papers*.

1832 (Nov. 8).—A public weekly market for the sale of provisions and farm produce, was opened at Felton, Northumberland, to be held on every succeeding Thursday.—*Ibid*.

November 10.—A chimney very lately erected by the Messrs. Cookson, at their alkali works, South Shields, 180 feet high, and built of bricks, fell this morning, the foundation not having been sufficient to support its weight. Happily no personal injury was occasioned, with the exception of one little boy, whose leg was slightly hurt. The lead chambers adjoining were completely destroyed by the fall. The loss was estimated at upwards of £1000.—*Ibid*.

November 10.—A dreadful accident occurred at Gosforth new pit, by which two men lost their lives. They appeared to have been ascending the pit in the usual way, and by some means the engine drew them up to the pulley over the shaft, from which they fell, one directly down the shaft, and the other, after alighting near the mouth of the pit, fell in also, by which both were literally dashed to pieces.—*Ibid*.

November 10.—About three o'clock in the afternoon, Alston and its vicinity was visited by one of the most tremendous tempests of wind and rain from the S. E. ever remembered. The storm continued till about ten o'clock in the evening, when it settled down to a calm and became a fine clear night. During the storm, William Bainbridge, esq., Alston, had several trees torn up by the roots, in a plantation near the town, and two young women had a narrow escape from being lost upon Hartside. Mr. Stone, road-surveyor, passing with his gig, kindly took them up and conveyed them to his own house. Mrs. H. Marten, and her daughter, of Redheugh, Allendale, who were crossing the fell from Alston, where they had been attending a hiring, both perished. They were found by her sons, lying close together, on Sunday.—*Ibid*.

November 15.—A new chapel, at Hetton, was consecrated by the lord bishop of Bristol, in the presence of a vast concourse of spectators. An excellent and appropriate sermon was delivered on the occasion by the rev. Charles Thurlow.—*Ibid*.

November 15.—Thursday, about one o'clock, at the sign of the Black house, Pilgrim street, Newcastle, Mr. William Hall, the landlord, shot himself through the head with a pistol loaded with ball, which occasioned his death a short time afterwards. In the evening, a coroner's inquest was held on the body, before John Forster, esq.,

one of the coroners of that town, and a respectable jury, when a verdict of insanity was returned.—*Local Papers.*

1832 (Nov. 16).—At Alnwick, a fire broke out in the attic of a dwelling house occupied by Mr. Thomas Robertson, cabinet maker, used as a workshop. The fire originated during the temporary absence of the workmen, and was occasioned, it is supposed, by the water in a glue kettle, boiling over into the stove, and the sparks emitted by this means igniting the shavings. The Alnwick castle engine, and the corporation engines played with great effect. The conflagration was extinguished in about three hours, but not till nearly the whole of the stock and all the workmen's tools were destroyed.—*Ibid.*

November 23.—Two fine young men, of the names of Matthew King and James Linsley, were killed, whilst at work in the Sheriff-hill colliery, in consequence of a fall from the roof of the mine. It would appear that they had incautiously removed some coal without having supplied its place with props, which occasioned the accident. A coroner's inquest was held, and a verdict of accidental death returned.—*Ibid.*

December 5.—The Independent chapel at Winlaton, was opened.—*Ibid.*

December 7.—On the morning, a fire was discovered in the pattern shop of Messrs. Hawthorn, the engine builders, Newcastle. An immediately alarm was given, and engines being presently on the spot, the progress of the fire was arrested, though not until damage to the amount of nearly £1000. had taken place. The cause of the conflagration is not known.—*Ibid.*

December 10.—Monday, a dreadful accident occurred at Heddon-on-the-Wall. A number of workmen had placed cannon on an eminence near that place, for the purpose of saluting the voters as they passed, and a person of the name of Potts, a mason, who was in the act of charging one of the cannons, it went off, and blew him to a distance of several yards, shattering his body almost to atoms. The mangled remains were soon afterwards gathered up, and presented a most shocking spectacle.—*Ibid.*

December 11.—About ten o'clock on Tuesday sen'night, when the news reached Sunderland from Durham of sir H. Williamson's being 300 votes in advance of Mr. Braddyll, the colour bearers, &c., of Mr. B. were sent for, and arrived just as the agents of sir Hedworth were giving out the state of the poll. They instantly fell to work and demolished all the low windows of the committee room, tore down certain sign boards, broke them into cudgels, and then took their departure. On the following day, at the close of the poll, a

dreadful affray took place in the High street, Sunderland, between the conservative party's band and colourmen, and those of the two other candidates. The conflict was very rough. The windows of Mr. Braddyll's committee-room were broken.—*Local Papers*.

1832 (Dec. 21).—A dreadful accident occurred at Harrington, Durham. About half-past five o'clock in the morning, as Thomas Dand, aged 44, his son 13, William Ray, 27, and William Cribbins, 19, were descending the shaft of Hodgson pit, (a depth of 70 fathoms,) the rope broke, and the two former, father and son, were killed on the spot. William Cribbins, though taken up alive, was not expected to recover. William Ray fell across the bule of a basket. He was literally ripped up, and shortly afterwards died.—*Ibid*.

1832.—This year, the Swedenborgians' chapel, Butchers' hall, Friars, Newcastle; was opened: it was dissolved in 1835, and united with the society in Percy-street. The register of births and baptisms, 11 entries, extending from 1832 to 1835.—*Rep. of Parl. Com., &c.*

1833 (Jan. 13).—The organ recently erected in St. Thomas's chapel, Barras-bridge, Newcastle, was opened.—*Local Papers*.

January.—Sunday morning about three o'clock, the cooperage belonging to Mr. James Brown, situate on the east side of the Tyne brewery, Sandgate-shore, Newcastle, was discovered to be on fire. Considerable damage was done to the premises, and, about 400 sets of hogshead staves, 300 single pipe staves, and other articles of value were consumed.—*Ibid*.

January 21.—Monday, the bells of St. Nicholas' church, Newcastle, and of St. Mary's, Gateshead, were rung in honour of his majesty having elevated the marquis of Cleveland to the dignity of duke of Cleveland.—*Ibid*.

January.—The museum of the late Anthony Hedley at Chesterholm, was enriched by a spear head about a foot long, the umbo or boss of a shield, and nearly three hundred brass coins, found among the ruins of one of the towers of the western gateway of Vindolana. The coins belong to the emperors Constantinus, Constantius, Constans, and the tyrant Magnentius, and were strewn over one of the moulded cordon stones of the tower, and intermixed with the soil above and about it.—*Gent's Mag*.

February.—A miner at Down's pit, near Hettón, was showing a young woman, named Eliza Clark, how they let off a "kitty," (a straw filled with gunpowder to communicate with the powder used in blasting coal), he set fire to it at one end of a table, over which it immediately passed, and communicated, by a hole in the table, with twelve pounds of gunpowder deposited in a drawer below. An instant explosion was the consequence; and the shock split the window-shutters

and the doors into a thousand fragments, and the roof of the house was completely lifted off. Four persons were severely burnt, and the lives of two of them (the young woman above-mentioned, and Thomas Shields,) were despaired of.—*Local Papers*.

1833 (Feb. 7).—On the morning, about three o'clock, a stable belonging to Mr. Robert Thompson, High bridge, Newcastle, was discovered to be on fire; but by the prompt assistance of several of his neighbours, it was got under without doing much damage, except the loss of a fine horse, by suffocation.—*Ibid*.

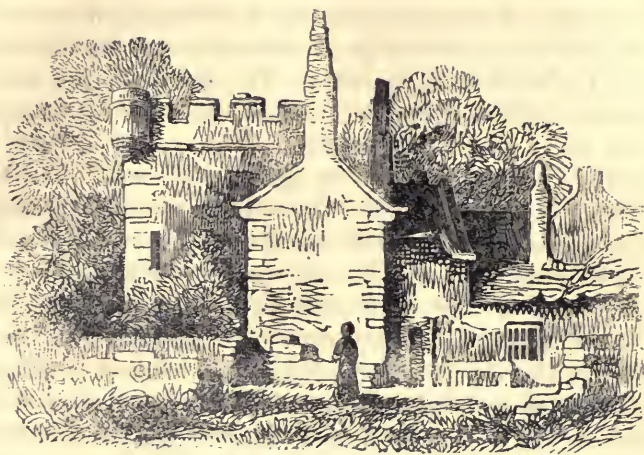
February 7.—A general registry office for servants was established in Newcastle, under the designation of the Domestic Guardian Institution for Northumberland and Durham.—*Ibid*.

February 17.—A serious riot took place at Hartlepool, between the Irish and English labourers employed on the railway. On the following Monday morning, the English party again mustered, searched the town, drove out every Irishman they could find. One Irishman was killed, another had his leg broke, and a great many on both sides were dreadfully cut and bruised. An express was sent off for the military, and a number of special constables were sworn in. The inhabitants were thrown into considerable alarm, and all the works were laid in.—*Ibid*.

February 19.—One of the largest engines ever yet constructed commenced working on this day, at colonel Braddyll's new colliery at South Hetton, Durham. Its power is rated at 240 horses, and its labour was to pump water from the depth of 876 feet.—*Ibid*

March 2.—A riot of a most brutal description, took place at the Downs, near Hetton-le-hole, Durham, between the old and new pitmen of that place, in which the Derbyshire (new) miners were eventually overpowered, and obliged to seek refuge in their houses in Down's lane. The old pitmen pursuing their advantage, commenced an attack upon the doors and windows of the houses of their antagonists; the consequence of which was, that the Derbyshire pitmen retaliated by firing several guns at their assailants, loaded with shot, ball, marbles and broken spoons, by which a pitman of the name of Dodds, was so dangerously wounded that his life was despaired of. Several pieces of broken pewter were extracted from his body by a surgeon. Two other men were wounded by marbles and slugs. They were subsequently extracted. After much difficulty the rioters were compelled to disperse. An outrage of a similar description took place at the Brick garth, Easington lane, but was not attended with such disastrous circumstances.—*Ibid*.

March 8.—On the evening of this day, John Wilkinson, a person of weak mind, was taken in the act of setting fire to a stack of straw



HALTON CASTLE (1826).

in the farm yard of Messrs. N. and J. Wright, at Halton castle, Northumberland. Wilkinson was tried for the offence at the Northumberland summer assizes in the same year, when the jury returned a verdict of "not guilty, on the ground of insanity."—*Local Papers*.

1833 (March 18).—Died, at Mitford, Northumberland, aged 100 years, Mrs. Ann Jobson.—*Ibid*.

March 25.—William Lough, better known as Clubby Wullye, a pauper, who had long been resident in Hexham Poor house, died in the Half-moon tent, at the fair held on the Seal, at that place, from the effects of drinking ardent spirits.—*Ibid*.

March 26.—The foundation stone of an intended Wesleyan chapel at Seaham harbour was laid.—*Ibid*.

At about half past ten o'clock in the night of March 26, 1833. William Buddle, a butcher of Newcastle, accompanied by his dog, was proceeding on the road to Morpeth on business. He suffered no interruption until he had arrived at Gosforth, nearly six miles from Newcastle, when four men came up to him, named John Slater, James Henry, James Kelly, and John Macbeth. The latter asked Buddle of the time, to which he replied that it was not yet One. He then asked him for money to which he answered that he had but four-pence. This not satisfying, Macbeth took hold of his leg and threw him backward, holding him down by the collar and stopping his mouth by his hand, while the others rifled his pockets of £19. in bank notes, gold and silver; but not without great opposition, as well on his own part as on that of his dog. Macbeth then told the others to run, when they were followed by himself over a gate into a field. Buddle

got up and pursued, and hounded his dog to the pursuit which bit Macbeth severely and repeatedly by the heels, making him shout with pain. Buddle pursued under great opposition and the discharge of pistols, to the brink of Seaton burn. The first man got over, but the second and third fell in, but succeeded in reaching the opposite bank and got on the hedge adjoining. Macbeth (the last) fell in head foremost, and was plunged in mud, over the ears. Buddle likewise plunged in, up to his breast in water. Macbeth righting himself, Buddle belaboured him with his stick, aided by his trusty dog, which incessantly bit the exposed parts. This conflict lasted about ten minutes, when Kelly mounted the dyke and pulling out a stake, struck Buddle on the temple, and then on the head, knocking him down in the water. He rose again and continued the conflict, beating Macbeth until he was almost breathless, and another of the gang mounted the hedge, and beat Buddle with a stake until it broke. Macbeth was completely spent, and by a great effort sought to be rid of his athletic opponent, by throwing himself on the hedge, where he nearly transfixed himself with a sharp stake. He succeeded however in getting over the hedge, and by the assistance of two of his companions, was conveyed to some distance, where in about half an hour he was somewhat recovered and enabled to get up. The man who had the money had previously decamped. Buddle who was for an instant senseless pursued them, bleeding excessively, to a plantation at Seaton Burn House, where he was obliged to halt; but the dog pursued them for some distance. About two o'clock A. M., Buddle arrived at a public-house at the Six Mile Bridge. All the family had retired to rest, but he called them up and received assistance from them, in binding up his wounds. Shortly after, a party of butchers arrived, with whom he went out in search of the robbers; but returned unsuccessful in half an hour, and ultimately reached home about half past five. The next morning the three culprits proceeded towards Newcastle, attracting much attention, but evaded caption for the time. Macbeth was taken at Durham, who with Kelly was lodged in Morpeth gaol. Slater and Henry wandered as far as Leicestershire, where they were taken, and on April 24, placed in the house of correction, Southwell, Nottinghamshire. They were charged with five robberies, in Northumberland. On the second of August they were tried before baron Bolland at Newcastle, and on the 3rd, sentence of death was recorded against them, but as murder was evidently by them not contemplated, it was commuted to transportation for life.—*MS. Col.*

1833 (March 29.—A fire took place at a farm called Salter house, near Wynyard, belonging to the marquis of Londonderry, and occupied by one of his stewards, Mr. Newby, by which six valuable horses

were destroyed, and other considerable damage done. The manner in which the fire originated was not known.—*Local Papers*.

1833 (March).—A silver coin the size of half-a-crown, of the reign of Elizabeth, was found in the church yard, at Chester-le-Street, in a very perfect state, and is now in the possession of Mr. Maxwell, of that place.—*Ibid*.

April 12.—Friday, a meeting was held at Long Benton, for the exhibition of stock, &c., and the distribution of premiums and sweepstakes, which, notwithstanding the unfavourableness of the weather, was exceedingly well attended, and afforded high gratification to all present. This show has been continued annually.—*Ibid*.

April 15.—James Sloan, of the city of Durham, grocer, cut his throat with a razor, at the former place, so effectually as almost to sever his head from his body. It appears that he had got up and left his wife asleep in bed, and had proceeded down the yard and entered an out-house, where he committed the fatal deed. His wife having missed him, got up and went in search of him when she found him in the above place, quite dead, with his head reclining on his shoulder. The sight was most appalling. An inquest was held on the body, and a verdict obtained "that the deceased destroyed himself while in a state of derangement."—*Ibid*.

April 17.—A fire broke out at six o'clock in the evening, in a staircase, adjoining the Durham glass-works, Gateshead, belonging to Mr. Price, which extended to a straw loft, where a great quantity of straw was burnt, but, the flames were soon got under by the assistance of the workmen, and the fire engines from Gateshead and Newcastle.—*Ibid*.

April 18.—Died, at the Elfhills, near Wallington, Northumberland, Mr. Shaftoe Thompson, at an advanced age. His great grandfather was captain John Shaftoe, who was shot at Preston, for engaging in the rebellion of 1715, and who married one of the two sisters of Sir John Fenwick, of Wallington, who was beheaded for high treason, in the reign of king William, 27th January, 1697. Shaftoe Thompson was possessed of a brass snuff box, curiously ornamented, with eight lines of verse, in a mixture of the Dutch language and Hieroglyphics, and which belonged to his grandfather, John Shaftoe, of Farneylaw, and is traditionally said to contain mystical allusions to the affairs in which captain Shaftoe so unfortunately engaged in, in 1715.—*Ibid*.

April 30.—Died, at Blackwell, Durham, in her 102nd year, Mrs. Brockett.—*Ibid*.

May 1.—At noon a discussion between the rev. John Lockhart of Newcastle, and Mr. Borthwick, the hired advocate of the slave holders, took place in the Music-hall, Blackett-street, Newcastle, Wm. Chapman, esq., in the chair. The discussion lasted for several hours,

when the show of hands was greatly in favour of immediate abolition.—*Local Papers.*

1833 (May 2).—Five poor boys were unfortunately drowned in a coal-pit at Kingswood, Northumberland, from the sudden rushing in of a quantity of water from an old shaft.—*Ibid.*

May 4.—This evening, the cabinet workshops of Mr. Thomas Sopwith, situated in the Painter-heugh, Newcastle, was consumed with fire, together with a quantity of mahogany veneers, and all the tools of the workmen. It is not known how the conflagration originated, which was first discovered about ten o'clock, and increased with alarming rapidity, owing to the combustible nature of the materials exposed to its operation. The mayor (John Brandling, esq.) evinced the most laudable anxiety, stimulating the firemen by his directions, and also by his personal exertions. Great praise is due to Mr. Forsyth, town-marshal, the yeomanry cavalry, police, and other gentlemen in their various offices, for their meritorious exertions. The fire was got under about half-past eleven, but not without some slight damage to the adjoining property, caused by the playing of the engines, and other efforts to prevent the fire from spreading. Mr. Sopwith's stock and premises were insured.—*Ibid.*

May 6.—A few privates of the 42nd Highlanders performed Rob Roy, and the Mayor of Garret, at the theatre, Berwick. The receipts, £10., were paid over to the treasurer of the dispensary there, for the use of that institution.—*Ibid.*

May 8.—A melancholy occurrence took place, which proved a cause of deep regret to several of the inhabitants of Newcastle. The rev. Alexander Shaw, minister of the Secession church in Carlisle-street, put a period to his existence, at the house of the rev. Mr. Bell, at North Middleton, by cutting his throat with a razor. He had been affected with a determination of blood to his head. Mr. Shaw was about 30 years of age, was justly admired in his pastoral office, and his untimely demise, under the circumstances, caused unfeigned anguish to his friends.—*Ibid.*

May 8.—A young man named Lawson, a mason, of Alnwick, went into the Coquet to bathe, near to Brinkburn priory, Northumberland, and not being able to swim he got into deep water and was drowned. A young man of the name of Humphrey Henderson, mason, of Morpeth, and William Johnson of the same place, plunged in to his assistance, when the former being entangled with Lawson, unfortunately was drowned, and left a widow and two children; Johnson narrowly escaped with his life.—*Ibid.*

About this year, was built unto the south side of Blenkinsopp castle, a new dwelling-house, in the castellated style, as a residence



BLENKINSOPP CASTLE (1834).

for the agent of the adjoining colliery. Until this time the castle had been partly occupied by two or three labouring families, who contrived to find a shelter in a few of its least dilapidated rooms. This castle was the seat of the Blenkinsopps for many generations, and consisted of a square tower, vaulted underneath, and surrounded by a high wall at an equal distance from the keep, all around. Three sides of it remain in a ruinous state. It was built in 1339.—*Hodgson. Mackenzie.*

1833 (May).—This month, omnibusses were first established to run between Newcastle and Tynemouth.—*Local Papers.*

This month, the first hackney coach commenced running in Sunderland, by a Mr. Smith.—*Ibid.*

There was at this time, living at Washington, in the county of Durham, a man named Andrew Wallace, a pensioner, 103 years of age, having been born in Inverness, Scotland, March 14, 1730. He retained his faculties, though his body shook from paralysis. He was a soldier at the battle of Culloden, Scotland, on the side of the Stuarts.—*Ibid.*

May 9.—Thursday, a most lamentable occurrence took place at Springwell colliery, the property of the right hon. lord Ravensworth and partners, near Wreckinton, in the county of Durham, and about five miles from Newcastle, owing to a dreadful explosion, in the B pit in that colliery, by which forty-seven individuals were instantly de-

prived of life, besides many who received severe fractures and contusions. This colliery is on the most extensive scale, and from its complete ventilation in every part of the workings, was admired by all those engaged in the undertaking. On the morning of the day the accident happened, it had, as usual, been examined by the under viewer, and overmen and declared quite safe. About eight A. M. one of the overmen observed that a collier had pricked a blower, (a hole or crevice in the roof, from which a small quantity of inflammable gas issued ;) he instantly ordered the person to leave that part of the mine. And on returning, two hours after, accompanied by the under viewer, he did not perceive any danger, but as a measure of precaution, ordered the safety lamp to be used instead of candles, with which the mine had been worked, owing to the extreme purity of the air. The colliery consists of two pits, A, and B, although containing but one shaft, which divides them by a strong and formidable piece of wood work, termed a brattice. About two o'clock on the above day the neighbourhood was alarmed by one of those dreadful explosions so peculiar to the coal mines in this district, and many posts were thrown out of the mouth of the shaft. As soon as the alarm subsided, parties of brave fellows descended the mine, and they fortunately succeeded in rescuing several who were severely injured, and also found three dead bodies, but such was the havoc created by the explosive matter, and the impure state of the mine owing to the after damp, that they could not penetrate any considerable way into the workings, and at seven o'clock on the night of the next day only eight of the bodies of the sufferers had been recovered, consequently thirty-nine remained in the mine, and with them the sad secret of the catastrophe ; not one person having survived to dispel the cloud of mystery that hangs over this dismal affair. Great numbers of people visited the colliery on the next day, Friday ; and at five o'clock a respectable jury was assembled, to hold an inquest on the body of James Oliver, a fine lad, who had been found dead in the pit, where his father at the same time lost his life. During the proceedings, the coroner said, as a garbled account of this lamentable affair had been printed and hawked about Newcastle and the neighbourhood, charging an unfortunate stranger, who was represented to be a Welshman, as the cause, by taking off the top of his safety lamp, he was desirous, for the exculpation of the individual thus foully charged with such a hainous offence, that he should be examined, for the satisfaction of the public, as well as the future safety of the poor fellow. Thomas Turner, from Staffordshire, was then called. He stated that he was at work in the A. pit on the preceding day ; used the Davy lamp, but did not take the top off ; nor ever did such a thing in his life ; he was aware of the report, but

it was unfounded. The jury then returned a verdict of accidental death. There were only nine or ten adults that fell victims to the terrific explosion, the remainder being boys; and nearly the whole of the sufferers were natives of this district, as only two of the strange workmen are supposed to have been lost. The accident occurred in the Hetton seam, at a depth of 120 fathoms.—*Local Papers.*

1833 (May 10).—About one o'clock this morning (Friday), the premises occupied by Mrs. Scott, grocer and ship bread baker, South Shields, were discovered to be on fire; and though engines were shortly on the spot, and the buildings are almost contiguous to the river Tyne, the fire was not got under till the bakehouse and lofts, which contained sixty sacks of flour, &c., were destroyed, as were nearly the whole of the stock and fixtures in the grocery shop.—*Ibid*

May 12.—A new organ was opened in Wallsend church, on which occasion a sermon was preached by the rev. J. Armstrong.—*Ibid.*

May 14.—Tuesday, a fire was discovered in a small shop belonging to Mr. Cowell, joiner, Nuns'-field, Newcastle. Such was the rapidity of the flames, that before the engines could be got into play, the whole was consumed. The extent of damage done was not very considerable.—*Ibid.*

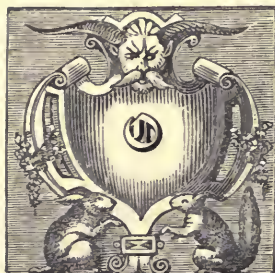
May 15.—Newcastle and the surrounding country, to a great extent, were visited with an awful storm of thunder, lightning, hail and rain. The atmosphere at the north-west assumed a threatening aspect early in the day, but it was not until five o'clock in the afternoon that the storm commenced. At that period a dense cloud settled over the town, the thunder was loud in the distance, and the explosions of the electric fluid, principally what is called "forked" lightning, were so continuous as almost to resemble one unbroken sheet of flame for upwards of a minute. The rain began to descend gradually under a heavily charged atmosphere, with scarcely a breath of air. Suddenly the wind increased almost to a hurricane, and the thunder gave a report that startled the boldest heart, accompanied by a tempest of rain and hail, such as is seldom witnessed under the temperate climate of England. The hailstones were of an unusual size, and the damage done was very great. Seventy-four panes of glass were broken in the dome of the Royal Arcade. At Bensham upwards of a thousand squares were broken. In Ravensworth-terrace two hundred and twenty. The vineries at Ravensworth castle sustained the damage of about £400. or £500. In the hot houses at Redheugh 2070 squares were demolished. At Sunderland the storm was equally destructive. The house of Mr. Wardropper, Bishopwearmouth, was struck by the electric fluid, by which the windows and window-panes were completely demolished, the former seriously.

Upwards of 2500 panes were demolished in the hot houses of A. and R. Fenwick, esqrs., of High and Low Pallion. The effects at Durham was very great, many of the inhabitants having at least 40 or 50 squares broken. The manufactories of Messrs. Blackett and Gainsforth, Messrs. Henderson, and Messrs. Dixon and Carter, were dreadfully broken up with hail. In the neighbourhood of Bishop Auckland, hailstones were picked up four inches in circumference. Many churches suffered. The electric fluid struck a chimney in the house of Mr. Peacock, in Bishop Auckland, which fell through the roof, into a room where two young children were in bed, who providentially escaped unhurt. At South Shields, the storm raged with great fury, but the damage was not very great. It does not appear to have extended itself very far to the north of Newcastle. The only fatal accident was that of a pitman, who whilst conversing with three or four of his companions of Walldridge fell, was struck dead by lightning. The others, though somewhat stunned at the moment did not receive any serious injury.—*Local Papers.*



ONE OF THE OLD TOWERS, RAVENSWORTH CASTLE (1843).

CHAPTER VII.



ON the 18th of May 1833, a thunder storm passed over Alnwick; the electric fluid struck the steeple of the church, but without doing material damage. At Shield-dykes, near Alnwick, a horse was killed by the lightning. At Chillingham castle and Lilburn house, a great quantity of glass was broken by the hailstones. The storm also visited Wark, where a large ash tree was stripped of its bark, split from top to bottom, and fragments scattered about in all directions.—*Local Papers.*

May 20.—At the meeting of the Natural History Society, held on the above day, the rev. William Turner in the chair, a communication from the British Association was read, inviting the society to send two delegates to the approaching meeting at Cambridge, who were to have seats in the council; when P. J. Selby, esq., and H. T. Maire Witham, esq., two of the vice presidents of the society, were chosen. It was also resolved to invite the members of the British Association to make this town one of their future places of meeting.—*Ibid.*

May 22.—Some fine and rich specimens of ancient architecture were discovered in the ante room, adjoining the chapter room of the cathedral, of Durham. By the removal of certain plaster work, some fine arches corresponding with some shortly before discovered in the chapter room, were brought to light.—*Ibid.*

Same day, the foundation stone of a new church, in Commercial Road (West), South Shields, was laid by the rev. James Carr, perpetual curate of St. Hilda's chapel, who delivered on the occasion an appropriate prayer and address to a numerous assemblage of the in-

habitants. The edifice was rebuilt and endowed at the sole expense of the dean and chapter of Durham, and affords accommodation for twelve hundred persons, eight hundred of which are free sittings.—*Local Papers.*

1833 (May 28.)—Tuesday, being his majesty's birth day, was ushered in in Newcastle by the ringing of bells and the firing of cannon. The Newcastle troop of dismounted cavalry mustered at the parade ground, and marched to the Sandhill, where they fired a *feu de joie*. They were afterwards presented with wine by the mayor and magistrates to drink his majesty's health. The Scotch Greys and Artillery stationed at the barracks were reviewed on the moor, and the day passed off with the usual demonstrations of joy. In the other towns of this neighbourhood similar expressions of loyalty were manifested.—*Ibid.*

Same day, an explosion of inflammable gas took place in the Lumley Eight pit, Lambton colliery, by which two young men, named Gray and Atchinson, unfortunately lost their lives.—*Ibid.*

May 30.—Thursday, an accident happened to Mr. Adamson, of the city of Durham, veterinary surgeon. He was in the act of preparing some medicine for a horse, and had put a quantity of nitric-acid and oil of tar into a quart bottle, which he was shaking, when, from the accumulation of gas, the bottle exploded, and wounded Mr. Adamson in the side. A large piece of glass was afterwards extracted. Two horses belonging to the hon. and rev. Dr. Wellesley were leaving the shop at the time of the accident, in charge of a servant. One of them received a deep wound in the thigh from the broken glass, and the servant was thrown against the wall by the force of the explosion.—*Ibid.*

June 8.—The funeral of Thomas Leadbitter, esq., took place this day, agreeably to his own direction, in a piece of ground adjoining the new Roman catholic chapel, Hexham. This being the first interment in that ground, and high mass being performed on the occasion, a great concourse of persons attended to witness the ceremony.—*Ibid.*

June 8.—The Eppleton colliery, belonging to the Hetton coal company, was won. The Hetton seam is seven feet seven inches thick—pure coal, five feet six inches—depth one hundred and fifty-five fathoms. The winning had been several years in progress.—*Ibid.*

June 9.—The new chapel at North Sunderland was opened. It is built in the purest Norman style. The rev. Leonard Shafto Orde, was appointed perpetual curate, a parsonage was built near it.—*Ibid.*

June 10.—Monday, a fire broke out among the tents just erected on the Town moor, Newcastle, for the ensuing races, which almost totally consumed three of them, viz:—Mr. Martin's, of the Cloth

market, and Mr. Heron's of the Golden tiger, Pilgrim street, and Mrs. Dixon's, of the Ouseburn, in that town. A very small proportion of the porter or spirits were preserved.—*Local Papers.*

1833 (June 13).—Thursday, the largest number of salmon was caught in the Tyne that had taken place for many years; between four hundred and five hundred were brought into Newcastle market, and were readily sold at from sixpence to eightpence per lb.—*Ibid.*

Same day, died, at Barnardcastle, aged 103, Mrs. Hannah Todd.—*Ibid.*

June 14.—The North Shields Mechanics' and Tradesmen's Library was established. The chair was taken by Mr. John Rennison, who briefly detailed the rise, progress, and decline of the late Mechanics' Institute in that town, and informed the meeting that they had assembled for the purpose of endeavouring to revive it under another appellation.—*Ibid.*

June 15.—A swarm of bees lighted on the head of Mrs. Gibb, of Todstead, near Rothbury; the good lady being a little alarmed, the queen bee was removed by a spectator into a hive, and her obedient flock immediately followed, without injuring Mrs. Gibb.—*Ibid.*

June 19.—Wednesday, a melancholy accident happened at the Short sand, on the north side of Tynemouth castle. About 9 o'clock on the morning, Mr. John Smith, of Winlaton, and Mr. Hodgson, draper, Gateshead, went to bathe, and unfortunately got out of their depth, and were both drowned. Their bodies were almost immediately taken out, but life was extinct. Mr. Smith was a single man, but Mr. Hodgson left a wife and six children to lament his untimely end.—*Ibid.*

June 21.—Three young men, William and Robert, sons of Mr. Wm. Cuthbertson, of Newton Sea Houses, Northumberland, and Ralph, son of Mr. Wm. Archbold, left that place in a boat for Dunstanborough castle, to gather sink stones for the brat nets. On their return, a heavy squall caught the sail, and capsized the boat, which immediately sunk from the quantity of stones it contained. Robert, who could swim a little, seized hold of two of the oars, and contrived to keep himself in that position until taken up by some fishermen; but his less fortunate brother and companion were both drowned. Their bodies were found the following day. Cuthbertson was 22 years of age, Archbold 19.—*Ibid.*

June 28.—On the afternoon of this day (Friday), as a servant of Mr. Wilkinson, of Dunston Lodge Asylum, was driving a cart with two horses from Newcastle, a flash of lightning struck the fore-horse, by which he was so much injured that it was deemed necessary to kill him. It is remarkable that the animal's shoulder blade was fractured

without any external mark of injury being perceptible.—*Local Papers.*

1833 (July 8).—Tuesday, the wind blowing fresh from the N. E., and a considerable swell being on the bar, the opportunity was embraced to make trial of a small life boat stationed in Tynemouth Haven by the Shipwreck Society. The boat was first tried under canvas, without ballast, and answered every expectation that had been formed of her powers. It being determined to prove the boat, under circumstances as disadvantageous as possible, she was then filled with water, and again put to sea under canvas, with the intention of trying her properties in broken water when in this state. The crew consisted of four persons, viz :—Mr. Edward Robson, (one of the committee) Mr. William Fry, jun., and two men belonging to Tynemouth, who volunteered to man the boat on this occasion. The possibility of an accident happening was anticipated, and the men were provided with lieutenant Kennedy's life-preserving jackets, ready inflated. The boat went out, bowing the sea in gallant style, several seas breaking completely over her, and performed well in every respect; but, in returning into the Haven, through the breakers, and running before the sea, a heavy sea struck the boat right a-stern, broke into the sail, and capsized her. The men depended now upon the jackets, which were put to a severe test, and faithfully performed their duty; they soon gained the bottom of the boat, and although washed off twice by the sea, aided by the jackets, and the coolness and presence of mind of Mr. Robson and Mr. Fry, jun., the whole were kept afloat until relieved by a coble which put off from the Haven immediately on the accident being observed. Great credit is due to those pilots, who with a promptitude and alacrity peculiar to this class of men, manned the coble and pulled off to the assistance of the life-boat's crew; as well as to several of their brethren who beheld the accident from the Law, at South Shields, and immediately crossed the river, launched the Northumberland life boat, and in a few minutes were down at the bar to render assistance, if required.—*Ibid.*

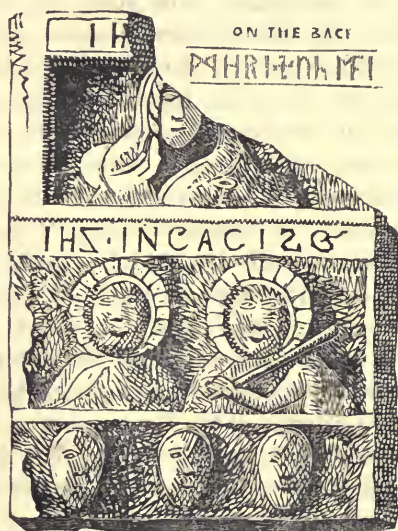
July 16.—A most magnificent brick-built chimney having been completed by Mr. Livingstone at the Alkali works of Anthony Clapham, esq., Friars Goose, on the Tyne, a little below Newcastle. Mr. Clapham, on the above day, entertained a party of friends with a sumptuous repast at the bottom of the chimney, to the great delight of the party, who expressed their surprise and astonishment at this stupendous work of art. It was then the highest chimney in England, being 263 feet from the base, exceeding in height that of Muspratt's famous chimney at Liverpool by 38 feet, and St. Nicholas' steeple, Newcastle, by 69 feet. It is 27 feet in diameter at the base, and seven feet at the top, which is finished by a stone coping; it contains

upwards of half a million of bricks, and is computed to weigh nearly 2,000 tons. It is of first rate workmanship, beautifully perpendicular, and does honour to the builder and its spirited owner.—*Local Papers*.

1833 (July 17).—Wednesday, two pilots belonging to South Shields, who were out at sea fishing for mackarel, being very unsuccessful, were hauling in their lines to return home, when a solan goose, which had been hovering near the boat, pounced on the bait, and swallowed it, and, after much difficulty, was secured and brought to land.—*Ibid*.

July 18.—At Newton races, Northumberland, two fine horses, in running at full speed in opposite directions, encountered each other with such force, that their skulls were fractured, and they were both killed on the spot.—*Ibid*.

July 20.—Saturday, as a man of the name of John Kelley, was descending the shaft of Hetton pit, a deal fell from the top upon him. The shock threw him out of the loop; but his foot catching a chain in his descent, he was suspended with his head downwards till he reached the bottom of the shaft. He was very seriously injured.—*Ibid*.



SCULPTURE FOUND AT NORHAM. (about 1780).

About this year, there was discovered, a little to the eastward of the antient church at Norham, the foundations of a building which appeared to have consisted of a number of very small apartments. The purpose for which this building served has not yet been ascertained, but it is supposed to have been a kind of penitentiary, for the punishment of refractory monks.—*Rambles in Northd*.

1833 (July 24).—The ship-carpenters employed at Jarrow slip-way and building yard, on the Tyne, having struck for an advance of wages, the owners, on the above day, procured a number of carpenters from Sunderland, whom they set to work. The old workmen soon after attacked them, and immediately drove them from the premises. R. Shortridge, esq., magistrate of South Shields, was sent for, who, with the assistance of the civil force, quelled the disturbance.—*Local Papers*.

July 25.—Thursday, between five and six o'clock on the morning a fire broke out in a small brewery, occupied by Mr. J. Armstrong as a malting, situated in a passage leading from Sandgate to the New road, Newcastle. In a short time the whole building was in a blaze; and although the Newcastle and North British fire engines were promptly on the spot, the brew-house was entirely consumed. The premises belonged to Mrs. Reynoldson, and were insured. Fortunately for Mr. Armstrong, he had, only on the previous day, removed a large quantity of malt: his loss did not amount to more than £10. It was not known how the fire originated. The premises of Mr. V. Errington, adjoining, were in great danger, and were only saved by the exertions of the neighbours, (who soon obtained an abundant supply of water,) and the effectual playing of the engines.—*Ibid*.

July 27.—Saturday, as part of the joiners and masons, who had been employed to new front the Black Bull Inn, Hexham, were enjoying themselves on the occasion of raising the timbers, the floor above them gave way, and fell upon them. Fortunately no lives were lost, though one man was much bruised.—*Ibid*.

July 28.—The whole of an extensive building, formerly occupied by Mr. Mark Thompson, as a raff-yard shed, in Pandon, Newcastle, fell down to the ground with a tremendous crash, about six o'clock on the morning, in consequence of an immense quantity of railway bars having been placed against the wall next the street. Pandon is a common thoroughfare, but fortunately no accident happened.—*Ibid*.

July.—The eastern gateway of the Roman station of Borcovicus, or *Housesteads*, was totally freed from rubbish. The main passage-way had been through its north side, as appeared by the worn state of its threshold and the pivot holes of its doors, one of which formed a true hollow hemisphere, and was still covered with a shining blue coat of iron, from the friction of the pivot upon it. The pillars between the openings of this gateway seemed to have been taken down in the Roman age, and the southern passage-way walled up within and without, and the space between the walls used as a guard-house or shed. About a cart load of fossil coal was found on its floor, and among it a lump of galena intermixed with decayed chrystals of lime.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

1833.—This month, the rev. John Collinson, rector of Gateshead, at his own expense, erected a handsome obelisk, “to the memory of two hundred and twenty-two persons who died of cholera in Gateshead, from December 26th, MDCCCXXXI. to November 5th, MDCCCXXXII.”—The obelisk is placed in the burial ground of St. Edmund’s chapel; it is about fifteen feet high, and its execution is very creditable to the skill of Mr. Samuel Softley, the marble mason. On the pedestal is inscribed, “In the midst of life we are in death. Watch therefore, for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.”—*Local Papers*.

Dr. Bedale, of swimming celebrity, exhibited his aquatic feats in the river Tyne on two occasions during the last week of this month. Many of his positions and movements, were very beautiful and scientific. Large crowds attended each day, to witness the novelty of the exhibition.—*Ibid*.

August 2.—Pursuant to advertisement, a public meeting of gentlemen interested in effecting some improvements in the great north road was held in the Merchants’ court, Newcastle, the right worshipful John Brandling, esq., mayor, in the chair, when the plans of Mr. B. R. Dodd, civil engineer, of that town, were laid before the meeting, for erecting an elevated suspension bridge across the river Tyne from Gateshead to Newcastle. John Clayton, esq., read the report and estimate of the expense by Mr. Dodd, amounting to £77,000; also the presumed revenue, £10,000 per annum; from which it appeared that the undertaking presented the prospect of most liberally remunerating the proprietors. A committee, consisting of the mayor, the members of the town, the borough of Gateshead, for Northumberland, and Durham, with a number of other public spirited gentlemen, was appointed, with a view to ascertain the most desirable plan for the improvement of the road from Gateshead through Newcastle, and to report the same. A subscription was entered into to defray the expenses incurred. The principal advantages of the contemplated bridge, if taken from Gateshead to the Castle-garth, were represented to be, to continue the great north road through Newcastle, and to enable carriages, passengers, and cattle to avoid the steep, difficult, and dangerous hills of the Bottle-bank, and Dean-street; to bestow a splendid southern entrance on the town; and to open an improved and easy access to the county courts, and a road direct, level, safe, and pleasant to the multitudes who resorted to the well-supplied markets of Newcastle, or transacted business in the higher parts of the town; at the same time rendering one of its most wretched and offensive portions a scene of elegance, extensive intercourse, and commercial prosperity.—*Ibid*.

August.—Early in this month, two remarkably large swarms of

flies were noticed at North Shields, proceeding from the sea in a westerly direction. On one of the occasions an opportunity was taken of estimating the height of the mass, which appeared to be about 21 feet, by 6 or 8 in breadth. It was several minutes in passing by the observers.—*Local Papers*.

1833 (Aug. 5).—Monday, South Hetton colliery was opened, and a fat bullock was roasted, and distributed among the inhabitants of the neighbourhood. A great concourse of people assembled at Seaham, to witness the shipping of the first coals. W. Green, of Durham, esq., as one of the owners, addressed the people, amidst the most deafening cheers. A band of music attended, and in other respects the day was one of general rejoicing. The workmen belonging to the company and to lord Londonderry, were regaled at the several public houses in the village.—*Ibid*.

Same day, at noon the annual meeting of the Natural History Society was held, and at 2 p. m. the right worshipful the mayor, John Brandling, esq., proceeded, (with the aid of the same trowel * wielded by the Duke of Sussex in the founding of the library of the parent institution) to lay the foundation of the building behind the Library of the Literary and Philosophical Society, in Westgate street, for the reception of the museum of the Natural History Society, together with a colonnade &c., for the reception of the Roman antiquities belonging to the Society of Antiquaries, Newcastle upon Tyne. Between five and six p. m. about forty members of the Natural History Society dined at the Assembly rooms, the mayor in the chair.

August 7.—Wednesday, the neighbourhood of Newcastle, was enlivened by the firing of guns, and other tokens of joy, at the loading of the first vessel from the low main seam at St. Lawrence colliery, near Newcastle, called Picton main. The pit was begun from the surface on the 3rd of December preceding, and was completed to the low main, a depth of 94 fathoms, in the short period of eight months. The seam is in great perfection, is six feet thick, and, as a proof of the spirit of the parties, notwithstanding the coal work was only commenced on Monday, they raised on the following day upwards of 120 tons of coal. A party of gentlemen dined on the occasion, and spent a convivial day.—*Ibid*.

August 19.—For some years past nearly all the moors in Northumberland had been taken possession of by large bodies of poachers

* On the reverse side was engraven "This Trowel was again used by the right worshipful John Brandling, esq., mayor of Newcastle, in laying the Foundation Stone of the Building for the Natural History Society, 5th August. 1833, John Green, Architect," An oblong earthen plate, with a list of the officers of the Society, and other particulars, printed on it, was deposited in a cavity made for that purpose under the stone.

from the adjoining counties, who not only carried away immense quantities of game, but even plundered the industrious farmers of the neighbourhood of their sheep, and did wilful damage to their property. The overbearing insolence displayed on these occasions by these lawless intruders so intimidated the peaceable inhabitants, that they might almost be said to have lost their right over, and controul of their property. The 12th of August (the commencement of the shooting season) was again marked by the arrival of large bodies of these intruders, upon which the gentlemen and farmers then shooting on the moors determined no longer to be annoyed by them. Accordingly, on the above day, they divided themselves into two parties, and having ascertained that a body of the poachers would commence shooting at a place called Whitelee, near Carter Bar, the first party, consisting of about forty persons, on horseback, set out from Woodburn about 3 in the morning of the 20th, the second party also setting out for another suspected place of rendezvous. On the arrival of the first party at Whitelee they discovered about twenty poachers ranging the moors, each armed with a gun and attended with a dog. Immediately on being discovered the poachers formed themselves into a military position, on the ascent of a hill, threw off their coats, and presenting their guns, threatened to fire on the first who came near them.—A young gentlemen present remonstrated with the poachers on their illegal conduct, but in vain, they declared they would not be taken, and would shoot the first man who approached them. Upon this the gentleman alluded to, rode over a small burn which divided the parties, instantly followed by his friends, and after considerable struggling, in the course of which the young gentleman's horse was felled to the ground, and he himself wounded in the hand, the poachers were completely overpowered, and brought before two magistrates, who committed them to Morpeth gaol under the game act.—

Local Papers.

1833 (Aug. 18).—Sunday, the lord bishop of Chester preached at St. Thomas's chapel, Barras-bridge, Newcastle, after which a collection of £33. was made in aid of the Labourer's Provident Fund. In the afternoon of the same day, his lordship preached at St. Nicholas' church, on behalf of the Sunday School of that parish, in aid of which £19. 1s. 4d. were collected.—*Ibid.*

August 22.—Died, in Ropery-lane, Sunderland, aged 102, Mr. James Hall, mariner.—*Ibid.*

Same day, about half-past four o'clock, when the tide was on the turn of ebb, Peter Duncan and James Blair were drowned at Hartlepool, in the north sands, under the following circumstances:—The two unfortunate men, with a third, named William Wilson, having

gone for the purpose of bathing; while the three were undressing, Wilson, observing there was a great swell on, proposed they should not go in, but Duncan and Blair, being good swimmers, persisted, while Wilson remained on shore to watch their clothes. When they were in about 80 or 100 yards, and swimming nearly close together, a heavy sea burst upon them, and they sunk. Wilson, on their not re-appearing on the surface, gave the alarm, and assistance was procured; but before their bodies could be found, life was extinct.—*Local Papers.*

1833 (Sep. 1).—The Ardincale steam-packet, which plied between Newcastle and Edinburgh, sailed from Leith harbour about two o'clock on the morning of this day. She ought to have sailed at her usual time, six o'clock on the previous evening, but there had been blowing a gale of wind all the day from the north, and the captain did not think it prudent to proceed, but informed the passengers that if the wind abated he would go to sea with the morning tide. In the course of the night the wind went down, and at two o'clock on the Sunday morning, it being then very fine, he sailed and proceeded down the Frith of Forth, and met with no obstacle until he got considerably below the Bass Rock, when they found the sea very heavy, but having rounded St. Abb's head, the wind, which was quite fair, increased to a most tremendous gale, such as had not been seen upon the coast for upwards of thirty years. Having got up nearly as far as Bambro' castle, about twelve o'clock, a distance of upwards of seventy miles, which she had run in about ten hours, a most dreadful sea struck her upon the larboard quarter, and falling into the waist, made a clean sweep of every thing off the deck, tore away the whole of the bulwark stanchions and paddle casing on the starboard side, carried overboard captain McLeod, the steward's daughter, a soldier, and two other passengers, (one of them a young woman, and a middle-aged man.) Several other persons were overboard, but contrived to regain the vessel. She immediately righted, but the rigging, which was fastened to the starboard bulwark, and which supported the chimney and main mast, having been thus carried away, they were left in a very tottering condition. Both anchors were immediately let go, and she was brought up. Another sea then struck her, and the chimney and main mast then went over the side, but, fortunately, no person was hurt by the fall. Every exertion was made to clear away the wreck, and she bravely rode in the gale till near one o'clock the next morning. Too much praise cannot be given to a party of sailors, who were on board as passengers, and to Mr. Pearson, late the captain of The King of Netherlands, who then took the command. The vessel was perfectly tight, but from all the

sky-lights on deck being broken in, and the engine-house completely washed away, a great deal of water necessarily got into the vessel. Having, however, an excellent copper pump on board, the sailors and crew soon got the better of the water, and then, as before stated, rode till near one o'clock on Monday morning, a period of nearly thirteen hours in that most tremendous sea. During the day, two of the crew lowered down the stern-boat and jumped into her, when the painter broke, and they were in a moment swallowed up by the raging element. About one o'clock, she was struck by another most tremendous sea, when she parted from both her anchors, both chain cables having broken, and it was then, momentarily expected she would drive ashore.—Having, however, fortunately cast her head to the southward, and the wind having changed a little, some sail was immediately made upon her, and she began to edge off a little; but in a short time the sails were blown to ribbons. Very fortunately there were some large tarpaulins, which had been used to cover the luggage upon deck, and with these they contrived to make a sail, and they had the satisfaction to find she was going off the land with them. They soon cleared her of the water she had shipped, and steered immediately for a good anchorage under the lee of the Fern islands, where they saw several vessels lying in smooth water, and among the rest a revenue cutter, (supposed to be the Mermaid,) and, notwithstanding guns were fired from the Ardincaple, the bell rung, and every exertion made, they inhumanely took no notice of the vessel, but suffered her to pass them within a very short distance, (not more than 300 yards.) Indeed, she was in their view the whole of the preceding day when at anchor, but a cod smack, which was riding inside the cutter, having heard the signals, immediately slipped her cables, and came down to their assistance. About five o'clock, they were taken in tow by the smack, and the passengers were removed into her for safety. She was then towed up by the smack to Shields, where she got into the harbour next morning. The passengers were all landed in the evening by the crew of a boat from Cullercoats, who, seeing her distress, gallantly put off at the hazard of their lives to their assistance.—*Local Papers.*

1833 (Sep. 3).—A most diabolical attempt was made on the night of this day, by setting fire to a house belonging to lord Ravensworth, on Thrunton moor, not only to destroy the property, but to sacrifice the lives of the inmates. A reward of twenty pounds was offered for the discovery of the perpetrators.—*Ibid.*

September 5.—The new colliery at South-end, near Cockfield, was opened to the public, on which occasion the proprietors entertained a large party of their friends with a cold collation in a com-

modious tent erected on the spot; and afterwards regaled the workmen and others to the number of about 200.—*Local Papers.*

1833 (Sep. 6).—Four stacks of wheat, two stacks of hay, a stack of straw, a thrashing machine, a cow-byre, and various other out premises, the property of Mr. Matthew Collin, of Monckton, in the parish of Jarrow, in the county of Durham, were wilfully set on fire, and were completely destroyed. Two hundred and fifty pounds reward was offered, and a free pardon to any accomplice, not having been the actual incendiary, for the apprehension and conviction of the offender or offenders.—*Ibid.*

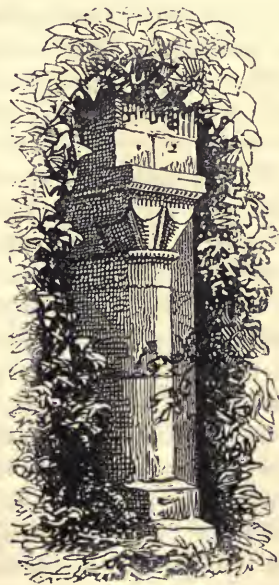
September 18.—Twenty-five French boats engaged in the herring trade were driven on shore on the coast, near Newton-by-the-Sea, Northumberland. Twelve of them were got off, but the others became wrecks. Their crews, consisting of about 180 men, were all saved. Shafto Craster, esq., of Craster, with his usual benevolence, supplied them with both money and victuals. They did also experience great hospitality and assistance from several other gentlemen of the neighbourhood, and were enabled to return to their homes.—*Ibid.*



PISCINA IN THE CHANCEL OF THE CHAPEL OF THE HOSPITAL OF ST. MARY, JESMOND.
APRIL, 1844.

September 23.—Died, at Greta bridge, Yorkshire, in the 71st year of his age, James Losh, esq., of Jesmond grove. recorder of

Newcastle. Mr. Losh was born at Woodside, near Carlisle, received his school-education under the rev. Mr. Gaskin, of Wreay, and afterwards under Mr. Dawson, of Sedbergh, from whence he removed to Cambridge; after which he entered Lincoln's inn, and in due time was called to the bar. In 1797, he settled at Newcastle, and in the following year married Cecilia, daughter of the rev. Dr. Baldwin, of Aldingham, Lancashire, by whom he left five sons and three daughters. In 1799, he became a member of the Literary and Philosophical society of Newcastle; and next year, one of its vice-presidents. In 1802, he warmly promoted the new institution for permanent lectures; and shortly afterwards was engaged with Dr. Clark in the enlargement and re-arrangement of the Infirmary, and the establishment of a Fever house. In 1810, he greatly assisted in the establishment of the Jubilee schools; subsequently he interested himself in the formation of Infant schools; and in the beginning of the year 1833, he ably advocated the scheme for a collegiate education at Newcastle, the friends of which have to lament his loss in a more especial manner. The sensation excited by the event in his neighbourhood was great and extensive,—all little political differences appearing to have at once subsided, and every one feeling that society had lost an active, eminent, and useful member; the public institutions, charitable, educational, and literary, a warm and enlightened supporter; a numerous



ONE OF THE PILLARS OF THE CHANCEL ARCH OF THE CHAPEL OF ST. MARY, JESMOND.
APRIL, 1844.

circle of friends an intimate and kind associate, a judicious adviser, and a ready helper; and the poor a most liberal benefactor. His exertions to promote the education, particularly the religious education of the lower classes, were manifested at an early age; and it was mentioned on a public occasion, that being obliged to reside at Bath, when young, on account of his health, he took so active a part in the superintendence of the Sunday schools at that place, that it was thought (by Dr. Beddoes, of Bristol,) a sufficient direction to a gentlemen visiting Bath, and wanted Mr. Losh's address, to ask the first poor boy he saw in the street, and he would be sure to learn it. As a lawyer it is enough to say that he was the personal friend of Bell and of Brougham; and that the corporation of Newcastle reflected honour on itself when, on the decease of Mr. Cookson, he was elected to the dignified office of recorder. On Thursday, the 4th, October, his remains were removed from his residence at Jesmond grove for interment at Gosforth church. It having been announced by various public bodies that they intended to honour the deceased by attending his funeral, a general sensation became apparent among the inhabitants of the town; and long before the appointed hour, the road leading to the church was thronged with spectators. The shopkeepers, also, in several of the principal streets, testified their respect by partially closing their shutters, which they continued in that state during the day. A little before eleven o'clock, the members of the various public societies, who had announced their intention to take part in the ceremony, reached the Barras-bridge, by which route it was arranged the family procession should proceed: and shortly afterwards, on the arrival of the hearse and its attendant mourning coaches, they formed themselves into a line. Sir M. W. Ridley, bart. M. P., Charles William Bigge, esq., and Thomas E. Headlam, M. D., walked first, and were followed by the members of the Literary and Philosophical society; the Law Gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood; the members of the Anti-Slavery society, of the Mechanics' institute, and of the Schoolmasters' Association, &c. Then followed the members of the Unitarian congregation in Hanover square, with whom the deceased had for many years been on terms of the most friendly communion. Other gentlemen, not, we believe, the representatives of any particular body, although including several burgesses and corporate officers, succeeded; and the procession was closed by between twenty and thirty carriages, headed by that of the chief magistrate, (H. Bell, esq., of Newbiggen,) and comprising those of lord Durham, sir M. W. Ridley, and the leading members of the corporation, containing the aldermen, common-council, &c. The crowds of respectable spectators on either side of the road were im-

mense for the first three-quarters of a mile, and great numbers accompanied the procession to the church, where, about twelve o'clock, the body was received by the reverend J. Walker, M. A., incumbent. The pew appropriated to the chief members of the corporation was hung with black, and similar mourning was placed over the pulpit. The interior of the church was crowded in every part; and its entire appearance had at this time a peculiarly solemn effect. After the usual preliminary services had been gone through, in a very impressive manner, the whole assembly proceeded to the grave, where the remaining ceremonies were performed, and the tomb finally closed upon one who when living was included among the greatest benefactors of this town and neighbourhood, and to whom his relatives and more immediate friends had on this occasion the melancholy satisfaction of seeing the public testifying, with one accord, their gratitude for his exertions, and their esteem for his memory.—*Local Papers*.

1833 (Sep. 28).—The first Monday after the feast of St. Michael, the archangel, being the charter day for electing the corporate officers of Newcastle, a large body of free burgesses and others assembled in the Guildhall, early in the afternoon, to hear the accounts and other particulars read. They were freely commented on by several of the burgesses, who declared some of them to be highly discreditable to the corporation, and such as ought not to be sanctioned by the auditors. The new police was strongly objected to as a force useless of itself, and annoying to the inhabitants: and Mr. G. T. Gibson moved their instant dismissal. The chief magistrate (J. Brandling, esq.) refused to put such a motion; but after considerable discussion, the chairman of the auditors took the sense of the meeting upon it, and it was carried amidst tremendous applause. In the course of the day, frequent allusions were made to the expected visit of the commissioners of enquiry, and the anticipated changes consequent upon their investigation; in reply to one of which, Mr. John Clayton observed, that he was perfectly ready to meet the commissioners whenever they paid the corporation a visit. The proceedings at this preliminary meeting having been gone through, the electors, &c. proceeded to the chapel of the hospital of St. Mary, in Westgate street, for the purpose of electing the mayor and other officers of the corporation for the ensuing year, when various objections were offered to the mode of election, which gave rise to considerable delay. Among other things, Mr. Gibson urged that, according to an opinion of their late respected recorder (Mr. Losh), the companies ought to adjourn to their halls, after the proceedings of the day had reached a certain stage, in order to consult on some matters pertaining to the election. Mr. Clayton held, that immemo-

rial usage had been to the contrary; and said he had also taken high legal advice on the subject, which went to negative the conclusion of Mr. Losh. There was no opposition offered to Henry Bell, esq., becoming mayor; but Mr. John Fife contested the sheriffalty with Mr. Atkinson, though without success; one of the proposed chamberlains was rejected on the ground of certain mal-practices when formerly in office: and the proposition that Mr. Askew should be Mr. Losh's successor in the recordership, was met by motions in favour of Messrs. Wilkinson and Bainbridge. Mr. Askew was, however, chosen by a considerable majority.—*Local Papers*.

1833 (Sep. 30).—William Hazlewood, esq. M. D., the last mayor of Hartlepool, was elected. The last meeting on record, of the body corporate, was held on the 18th of October, in the same year, after which the charter was suspended.—*MS. Col.*

October. 1.—Tuesday, one of the servants of Mr. Anderson, of Little Benton, was amusing himself with a horse pistol, charged with small shot, it accidentally went off, and lodged the contents in a neighbour, inflicting so serious an injury that the intestines protruded.—*Ibid.*

October 6.—Sunday evening, owing to the density of the mist, one of the steam boats plying between Newcastle and Shields got grounded a little below Walker, where she was unfortunately obliged to remain till the following morning, to the great annoyance of the passengers, who spent as may well be conceived, a most anxious and uncomfortable night.—*Ibid.*

October 7.—Died, at Percy Main, aged 101 years and 5 months, Isabella, widow of Mr. John Thompson, horsekeeper at Percy Main colliery: she was a native of Tanfield.—*Ibid.*

October 12.—The following advertisement appeared in the Newcastle Courant:—"This is to give Notice, that that gifted Man, GEORGE TARN, (Goose Merchant), has been preaching the Gospel, under the Sanction of the Mayor of Ripon, and Newcastle upon Tyne, having his Character signed by a Member of Parliament, and has been received with great Attention by Thousands of People, and is allowed to be a great Doctor of Divinity, a Man taught by the Spirit of God. This singular Man will preach at Gosforth, on Sunday first in the open Air."

This month, the monument to the memory of the late bishop Barrington, from the chisel of the celebrated Chantrey, was put up in Durham cathedral. The venerable prelate is represented in the attitude of prayer, kneeling on a cushion, while his left hand rests on the bible. The expression given to the fine features, so admirably portrayed, is that of piety and beneficence. The figure and drapery are

very finely modelled, and the right hand is a master-piece of the art of statuary. In the centre of the pedestal is the following inscription :—

THIS PUBLIC TRIBUTE
IS ERECTED TO THE MEMORY OF
SHUTE BARRINGTON
THIRTY-FIVE YEARS BISHOP OF DURHAM ;
WHO DIED MARCH 25, 1826.
IN THE 92ND YEAR OF HIS AGE,
AND 57TH OF HIS EPISCOPATE.
IN HIS WORKS OF PIETY AND MUNIFICENCE
HE BEING DEAD YET SPEAKETH.

On the right of the inscription is the mitre, and on the left the arms of the see of Durham.—*Local Papers.*

1833 (Oct. 25).—The boiler of the Four Brothers steam boat, in Sunderland harbour, burst, when the engineman was blown into the air, and was so severely hurt, that his life was despaired of.—*Ibid.*

October 28.—That important acquisition to the northern provinces of England, the university of Durham, was opened, with the most auspicious prospects, and the following appointments made:—Professor of Divinity and Ecclesiastical History, the rev. H. J. Rose, late Christian advocate at Cambridge; Professor of Greek, the rev. Henry Jenkins, fellow of Oriel college, Oxford; Senior tutor, the rev. T. W. Peile, of Trinity college, Cambridge; Junior tutor, William Palmer, esq., fellow of Magdalen college, Oxford. Nineteen gentlemen were appointed students on the foundation; and about forty-five in all were admitted members on the day of commencement.—*Gent's Mag.*

October 28.—Mr. H. L. Pattinson obtained a patent for “An improved Method of separating Silver from Lead.” Mr. Pattinson’s process was first introduced at the Langley smelt mills, Northumberland, and has since been brought into extensive operation in the various lead districts of the kingdom.—*Local Papers.*

October 29.—Fortunatus Dwaris, esq., one of the commissioners for enquiring into the existing state of corporations, held a court in the town-hall, Alnwick, when the affairs of that corporation were minutely detailed by Mr. Lindsay, clerk to the chamberlains, who was examined by the commissioner at considerable length. The managing body in this corporation are the chamberlains, and four and twenty, or common council, who are self-elected; but the funds appear to have been carefully administered.—*Ibid.*

Same day, S. A. Rumball, esq., one of the corporation commissioners arrived at Morpeth, and opened his court in the town-hall.

He closely examined the bailiffs' accounts, inquiring from whence each item received arose, and carefully investigated the expenditure of it, without finding a single instance of mal-appropriation. He also examined witnesses to shew what property the burgesses possessed, and by whom it was left; several burgesses attended and made objections, but the whole property was shewn to be fairly let. The corporation was out of debt.—*Local Papers.*

1833 (Oct. 30).—Died, at Durham, the rev. John Carr, M. A. for upwards of twenty years head master of Durham Grammar school, and recently appointed professor of mathematics in the new university.—*Ibid.*

October 31.—Fortunatus Dwarrris, and S. A. Rumball, esqrs., two of the commissioners appointed to enquire into the state of municipal corporations in England and Wales, commenced their labours soon after noon, on the above day in the Guildhall, Newcastle, which had been granted for the purpose by the corporation. The corporation was represented by John Clayton, esq.,* town clerk; the stewards of the incorporated companies by Mr. John Brown, their solicitor; the burgesses by Mr. Wm. Garret, Mr. Geo. T. Gibson, and others; and the non-freemen by Mr. Thos. Carr, Mr. J. Willis, and Mr. W. Kell. On the 8th of November, (notice having been given in the Guildhall several days previously) the commissioners began the enquiry respecting Gateshead, in the vestry of St. Mary's church, in the presence of the rector and other parties interested. The examination concluded on the following day.—*Ibid.*

This month, The churchwardens of Gateshead-fell had the gratification of receiving, in exchange for their old one, a large and fine-toned bell, of great antiquity, for the use of the church, from Sir R. S. Hawks, who, in the most liberal and handsome manner, made the exchange, and placed it in its situation at his own expense, with new bell-rope, &c.—*Ibid.*

November 1.—During a high wind, two houses in Dundas-street, Monkwearmouth, were blown down.—*Ibid.*

Same day, an explosion of fire-damp occurred at Black Fell, colliery, near Chester-le-street, by which three wastemen lost their lives, namely Robert Forster, W. Lamb, and Stephen Campbell.—*Ibid.*

November 4.—Died, at the house of his brother, at the Forth Banks, the day on which he completed his 51st year, after a long illness, Mr. John Potter, eldest son of William Potter, esq., of

* At a meeting of the common council December 24th, 1833. the thanks of the body was unanimously voted to the Town Clerk, for the able and candid manner in which he had met the inquiries of the commissioners.

Walbottle. The deceased, though somewhat eccentric in his manners, was a man of considerable literary attainments, and had assisted his knowledge, both of men and things, by foreign travel. He walked over the celebrated field of Waterloo only a very few days subsequent to the grand conflict that covered England with glory, and fixed the destinies of Europe, in June, 1815. He left behind him a handsome property, the result of persevering and industrious exertion; and amongst other benevolent bequests, a legacy of two hundred pounds was left to that excellent institution, the Newcastle Infirmary.—*Local Papers.*

1833 (Nov. 5).—A party of visitors at Chillingham castle, accompanied by the keepers, went into the park for the purpose of shooting one of the wild cattle, and whilst the keepers were reconnoitering their position, one of the cattle made a sudden rush at them, when Barnes the gamekeeper, unfortunately fell down, and the animal threw him twice over his head, and gored him very much. The infuriated animal was ultimately driven off by a deer-hound, and dispatched by a volley from the party. Barnes was conveyed home in a dangerous state, and every attention paid him by the noble earl and his family.—*Ibid.*

November 12.—Messrs. Dwaris and Rumball held their sitting in the Guildhall, at Durham, on the above day, Tuesday, when they went into an enquiry as to the nature of the charter, the extent of the corporate jurisdiction and the parliamentary borough, the system of civic government, and the election of the different officers of the corporation, the source and amount of its revenue, and the mode of its application, the desirability of establishing a borough court, and of appointing a resident magistracy, &c., &c. The commissioners terminated their examination the same day. The commissioners subsequently went to Hartlepool.—*Ibid.*

November 15.—A daring attempt at highway robbery took place in the evening of Hexham fair, on the person of a gentleman named Weddell, who was attacked near Chollerford by three footpads; one of them seized the bridle of the horse, but was instantly knocked down, another made a similar attempt but shared the same fate. Mr. Weddell not being able to get his horse to move, dismounted, and after giving the three robbers a severe beating, rode off; but on arriving at Chollerford, found that his horse had been severely stabbed in three or four places, apparently with a sword.—*Ibid.*

November 16.—During the week preceding this date, considerable interest had been excited in Newcastle by a rumour that a custom-house was about to be established at North Shields. On the above day, Saturday, a meeting of the chamber of commerce was held for

the purpose of taking the matter into consideration, when George Thomas Dunn, esq., was deputed by that body to wait upon the lords commissioners of the treasury; he was accompanied by Mr. Alderman Brandling on behalf of the corporation. Subsequent to their leaving town, however, the following letter was received from the honourable commissioners of the customs: which completely dissipated any alarm that persons, not perfectly acquainted with the nature and extent of the arrangement, might have felt upon the subject.

“Custom House, London, 19th Nov., 1833.

“Gentlemen.—Having considered an application from Mr. Anthony Nichol, dated 18th inst., on behalf of the merchants of Newcastle, referring to the Treasury Order of the 17th ult., by which the principal Coast Officer at Shields, is authorized to clear and do all the requisite business of vessels coastwise, without reference to the Custom House at Newcastle, and stating, that doubts are entertained by you whether this order is imperative that the vessels shall be cleared at Shields, or whether it is optional to the parties to clear at Newcastle or Shields, and requesting that directions may be given for the clearance of vessels at either place,

We acquaint you that the order in question is not imperative, but to be availed of by the parties at their option, and we direct you to govern yourselves accordingly, apprising the parties concerned.

R. B. DEAN. W. CUST.

CULLING CHAS. SMITH.”

“To the Collector and Comptroller, Newcastle.”

The arrangement applied only to coasting vessels; such of them as were loaded below Hebburn quay might be cleared at Newcastle or Shields as the parties might think fit; all that were loaded at or above Hebburn quay must be cleared at Newcastle.—*Local Papers.*

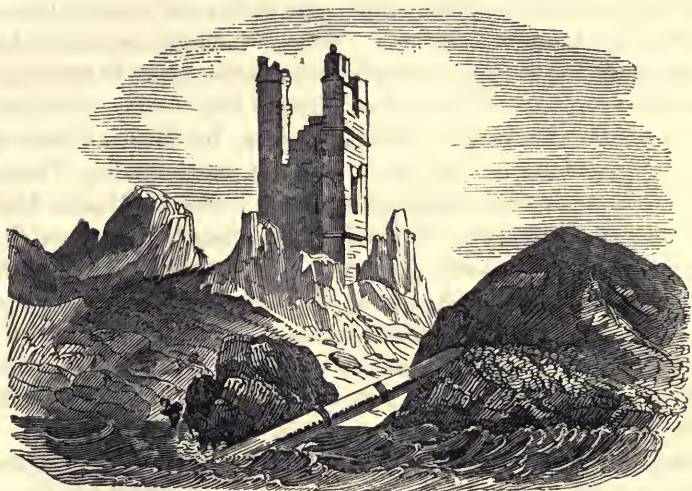
1833 (Nov. 16).—Died, at Bagnalstown, county Kilkenny, aged 28, the honourable Frederick George Howard, M. P. for the borough of Morpeth, Northumberland, and captain of the 90th regiment; second son of the earl of Carlisle. On the previous day he left the barracks near Kilkenny, in a curriele, accompanied by two of his brother officers, and was proceeding to visit the detachment of the regiment quartered at Newtonburry. A short way beyond Bagnalstown the horse took fright and ran away. Captain Howard attempted to leap out, but was unfortunately thrown with great violence upon his head which caused an effusion of blood on the brain. Captain Howard was promoted to a company the 10th of March, 1827, and first returned to parliament at the last general election.—*Gent's Mag.*

November 20.—Wednesday, the town of Morpeth, Northumber-

land, was lighted with gas, for the first time, to the great satisfaction of the inhabitants.—*Local Papers*.

1833 (Nov. 21).—Thursday night, about nine o'clock, the new bridge over the river Tyne, at Alston, fell in with a tremendous crash, the western abutment having been entirely carried away by a flood. This beautiful structure consisted of only one arch, probably the largest in the county, and was nearly completed. The water came down with irresistible force, and getting behind the abutment, carried it away, the embankment not being finished. Fortunately for the public convenience, the old bridge was still standing, though it required some repairs in order to make it passable till the new one was rebuilt.—*Ibid*.

November 22.—At an early hour on the morning, the wife of a man of the name of McGregor, who was in the service of Mr. Abbot, of Gateshead, was delivered of a daughter on board the Ardincaple steamer, while she lay at anchor under Dunstanborough castle. The child, in commemoration of the occurrence, was christened Elizabeth Ardincaple Dunstanborough McGregor.—*Ibid*.



DUNSTANBOROUGH CASTLE.

November 23.—Friday, an explosion of fire-damp took place at the Low Moorsley pit, near Houghton-le-spring, in the county of Durham. Mr. Appleby, viewer, Mr. Dawson, overman, and four men were dreadfully burnt.—*Ibid*.

November 23.—Died, at Byker buildings, aged 103, much regretted, Mrs. Elizabeth Wallas.—*Ibid*.

November 27.—Tuesday, John Gibson, engine-man at Wide-open

colliery, about 4 miles N.E. from Newcastle, lost his life by the bursting of one of the boilers of the main pumping engine, about nine o'clock at night. No person being there but himself, and the boiler being in a good state of repair, the cause of this melancholy occurrence is left entirely to conjecture. There were two other boilers alongside the one which burst, neither of which were much injured. The boiler which exploded, weighing six or seven tons, was blown to some distance, razing the boiler-house to its foundations. The engine-house being detached, little injury was sustained in that part of the premises.—*Local Papers.*

1833 (Dec. 9).—Died, at the Shaws, near Hexham, aged 90, Mr. John Charlton. It is somewhat remarkable that his mother, Eleanor Charlton, died at the age of 99; her sister, Elizabeth, at 102; their brothers, Mr. John Robson, at 102; and Mr. James Robson, at 94; united ages, 397.—*Ibid.*

December. 10.—The bell bequeathed to the parish of St. Nicholas, Newcastle, by the late major Anderson, was hoisted up into the belfry. The diameter of the bell across the mouth is six feet five inches; its length inside from top to bottom is four feet ten inches; its thickness in the thickest part at the mouth is four inches and a half; the total weight is about seventy-two cwt. Besides the major's arms, it bears the following inscription:—"Purchased for the clock to strike upon, agreeably to the will of George Anderson, Esq. 1833. Cast at the foundry of Sir Robert Shafto Hawks and Co., by James Harrison, of Barton upon Humber, Nov. 23, 1833." On the preceding Thursday afternoon, the bell was christened at the works of Messrs Hawks and Co., by Mr. Harrison, the founder, previously to its removal to the church, on which occasion a party of 20 of the workmen were comfortably seated within the bell, where they drank three gallons of ale; after which 10 others entered it, making 30 persons within it at the same time. The name given to the bell was "The Major." Whilst in the porch of St. Nicholas, a shoemaker made the greater part of a shoe in it, on Monday afternoon.—*Ibid.*

December 13.—Friday, morning, soon after one o'clock, the house and shop of Mr. John M'Kay, draper, in the Front-street, Chester-le-street, were discovered to be in flames. The inmates, who had retired to bed, and were unconscious of their danger, were happily aroused from their awful situation, and escaped, but in a state of nudity. Whilst every thing was in utter confusion, the south mail came up on its way to Newcastle, and the guard, upon the solicitation of the respectable inhabitants, undertook to give information of the fire, and cause engines to be forwarded with as little delay as possible. The guard, on reaching Gateshead, communicated the in-

telligence to the manager of the Sun Fire Office engine, which was dispatched within half an hour, and arrived before any other engine. The North British and the Newcastle Fire Office engines arrived soon after, but the damage done before they arrived was considerable. The fire had communicated both to the house below and above Mr. McKay's, which, however, were prevented from being entirely destroyed; but Mr. McKay's house and every vestige of his furniture and stock, worth £800., including the money (£110.) in his desk, and books, were utterly consumed. Nothing was insured, either on the stock or premises, which belonged to Mr. Atkinson, of Hetton colliery. The fruits of McKay's industry having been at once swept away, a considerable sum was raised in various places.—*Local Papers*.

1833 (Dec. 16).—Monday, the river Tees rose with great rapidity to an unusual height; and as a labourer was attempting to secure some timber, at the New bridge, at Blackwall, it was swept away with the man upon it, and carried down the stream. On arriving at Croft bridge, the dangerous situation of the man was observed by a gentleman on horseback, who immediately galloped to Hurworth, and gave the alarm; and on the timber arriving at that place, the man was removed by a boat, in a state of great agitation, and safely conveyed ashore.—*Ibid*.

December 19.—On the morning of this day (Thursday), a melancholy accident occurred at the buildings erecting by Mr. Grainger, at the Leazes terrace, Newcastle. While six of the workmen were proceeding along the scaffolding, at a considerable height, with a large head-stone, one of the supporters gave way beneath them, by which means they were all precipitated to the ground. One man (Wm. Murray) was killed on the spot; another (Robert Cunningham) died shortly afterwards in the Infirmary; a third had his leg broken, another his thigh bone, and the two others were bruised, one very severely. Murray left a young widow and infant child; Cunningham a wife and small family. A coroner's inquest was held the same afternoon, on view of the body of Murray. Verdict—accidental death. The jury, on returning their verdict, accompanied the same by observing, that not the slightest blame could be attached to any one; and from the evidence adduced, it appeared that the scaffolding had been erected with every necessary care.—*Ibid*.

December 23.—Monday, a hare was killed in Pilgrim-street, Newcastle, by Mr. J. G. Clarke's hounds. It was put up behind Kenton lodge, ran thence to Gosforth, thence to the Grand stand, afterwards across the Moor, into Pilgrim-street.—*Ibid*.

December 29.—Sunday, in the afternoon, a fire broke out in a cottage adjoining Mr. Moore's brewery, at Shield row, near Beamish,

in the county of Durham, which was consumed. The engines of the Newcastle Fire Office, the North British Office, and the Sun Fire Office, were upon the spot with as little delay as possible, and succeeded in preventing the fire from spreading to the neighbouring property.—*Local Papers*.

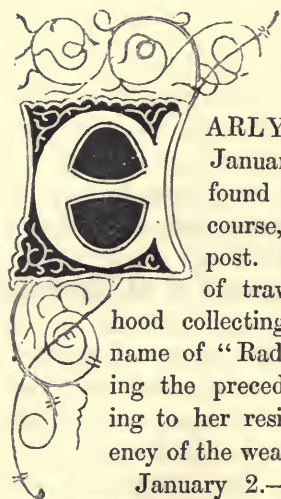
1833 (December).—Robert William Brandling, esq., of Low Gosforth, near Newcastle-upon-Tyne, obtained a patent for improvements in applying steam and other powers to ships, boats, and other purposes.—*Ibid*.

This year, the old church of Knaresdale, Northumberland, under the proper authorities, disappeared, and an entirely new one sprung up in its room, as an inscription over the door, bearing the names of Thomas Bowsher, rector, and William Parker, and Joseph Richardson, churchwardens, is left to testify. The prospect to be had from the old church, was beautiful; but the wretched edifice itself was built of the commonest masonry, and covered with thick sand-stone slate.—*Hodgson's Northd.*



OLD CHURCH OF KNARESDALE.

CHAPTER VIII.



EARLY on the morning of Wednesday, the 1st of January, 1834, the body of an old woman was found in the ditch adjoining the Newcastle race course, between the coal pit turn and the winning post. It appeared the deceased was in the habit of travelling round the villages in the neighbourhood collecting rags, &c., and was well known by the name of "Radical Betty," and it was supposed that during the preceding evening, she must have been returning to her residence in Sandgate, and from the inclemency of the weather perished on the moor.—*Local Papers.*

January 2.—Thursday, a public meeting was held in the mayor's chamber, Newcastle, for the purpose of forming and establishing a general cemetery, for the use of the town. The right worshipful the mayor (H. Bell, esq.) by whom the meeting had been convened at the request of a numerous and respectable body of requisitionists, took the chair, and opened the business by briefly explaining the object of the meeting, which was addressed by John Hodgson, esq., M. P., Alderman Forster and others. In the course of a desultory conversation, the town clerk said he had had access, through the kindness of Mr. John Fenwick, to all the accounts of the Westgate Cemetery; and he thought it clear that such an institution, economically managed, would be very beneficial, and afford a good interest on the capital sunk in it. The Westgate Cemetery had not yet produced a dividend; but then it should be considered that it was commenced with a capital which fell short of its proposer's expectation. Their debt was now, however, re-

moved; and the prospect was afforded of its recompensing the public-spirited promoters, notwithstanding that their advantages, in point of cheapness of land, &c. were not so great as would be those of the new institution. The resolutions were then put, and carried unanimously, and a number of gentlemen were chosen to act as a committee, who immediately proceeded to make preliminary arrangements. On the 29th of March following, they issued their prospectus of a new company, called the "Newcastle General Cemetery Company." The capital was £8,000, divided into 400 shares of £20 each. The place deemed most eligible for the cemetery was Jesmond fields, where the corporation fortunately possessed a considerable tract of land, about 10 acres of which they were willing to dispose of at a moderate rate, and to take shares in the company to the same amount.—*Local Papers*.

1834 (Jan. 8).—Died, at North Shields, aged 103, Elizabeth, widow of Mr. Thomas Hill, mariner, formerly well known under the appellation of the "Lady Wife," she being the person who gave information to the seamen's wives, on the arrival of their husbands at Shields bar; she was married at the age of 17, and lived some years in London, a married woman, during the reign of George the 2nd; she survived her husband 58 years.—*Ibid*.

Same evening, an evening lecture was commenced at St. Thomas's chapel, Barras bridge, Newcastle.—*Ibid*.

January 10.—Friday, as the servant of Mr. Angus, farmer, at Hindley, between Newcastle and Hexham, was crossing the Tyne with a cart and two valuable horses, they were carried away by the violence of the stream, which was much swollen by the late rains, and lost in the sight of several individuals who could not render them any assistance.—*Ibid*.

January 11.—Died, at Monkwearmouth, at her daughter's, aged 100, Mrs. Margaret Guye.—*Ibid*.

January 13.—Died, in the city of Durham, in South street, suddenly, the rev. Patrick George, perpetual curate of St. Margaret's, a minor canon of the cathedral, librarian to the bishop of Durham, and to the Durham University, aged 55. The deceased, before his appointment to the living of St. Margaret's was for a long series of years sub-curate in the same chapelry, to the present bishop of Exeter, the present rector of Stanhope, and the rev. Dr. Gilly successively; and in proof of the estimation in which he was held by those who were best able to appreciate his worth—we need only observe that a handsome piece of plate was presented to him by his flock about three years previous to his death.—*Ibid*.

January 14.—On Tuesday night, a large party of poachers were

discovered in the immediate vicinity of Ravensworth castle, near Newcastle. The hon. H. T. Liddell and a few servants immediately sallied forth to endeavour to drive them off, when they were violently attacked by the poachers, who were all armed and in military training, each man answering to a number. The butler had a very narrow escape for his life, but John Bell, farm servant to lord Ravensworth, was severely wounded in the hip and groin, of which he afterwards died. It is only proper to say, Mr. Liddell and his party had no arms. A reward was offered for the discovery of the depredators.—*Local Papers.*

1834 (January 15).—Died, in the Tuthill stairs, Newcastle, aged 65, Mr. William Fifefield, a man of colour, and a native of the West Indies. He had resided in that town nearly forty years, and during that period had filled the situation of long drummer in various local regiments: first in the Newcastle Volunteers, under the command of Col. Blakeney; next in the Usworth Legion; and again in the Newcastle Volunteers, after the peace of 1802; he subsequently joined the Second Durham Local Militia, and finished his military career in the South Tyne Yeomanry Hussars. To employ his vacant time, he plied for many years on the river, between this town and Shields, with a Comfortable, but the progress of steam threw him and his Comfortable into the shade. Poor Billy was very generally known, and very much respected in his station.—*Ibid.*

January 16.—Thursday, the first cargo of Crow trees Wallsend coals were shipped at the Clarence railway company's staiths, at Stockton, on board the brig Elizabeth, for London.—*Ibid.*

January 21.—Early on the morning of this day, (Tuesday), a large quantity of farm produce was destroyed by fire in two separate farm yards, near the village of Offerton, in the county of Durham, belonging to Mr. Thomas Elliot, of that place, farmer. On the alarm being given the whole of the inhabitants of the village, as well as those of Hilton were thrown into the greatest consternation, and a message was dispatched to Sunderland for assistance. A detachment of military was immediately sent off with the fire engine kept at the barracks, which arrived about six o'clock, and shortly after, the two Sunderland parish fire-engines, as well as one from lord Durham's colliery, reached the spot; but, unfortunately, too late to save the property from destruction, the whole, consisting of eighteen corn stacks, and three large hay-stacks, being consumed. The manner in which the stack, which communicated flame to the others, had been fired, left little doubt of its being the work of an incendiary. His majesty's pardon and a reward of Three Hundred Pounds were offered for the discovery of the offenders.—*Ibid.*

1834 (Jan 21).—The earl of Durham having previously announced his intention to hold a Provincial grand lodge at Lambton castle, it accordingly took place on the above day; when the gates of his lordship's princely residence were thrown open to the Masons of the province, who assembled in great numbers, from all parts of the county, to pay a tribute of gratitude to the noble head of their craft in this district, for his services in the cause of Masonry, and to do honour to his lordship's fraternal and generous invitation to partake of his hospitality on the occasion. The brethren of the different local lodges assembled in the library and picture gallery at twelve o'clock; and at half-past twelve the grand lodge was opened in the saloon, which was fitted up for the purpose, by sir Cuthbert Sharp, as deputy provincial grand master, who rose on behalf of the assembled brethren, and in very appropriate terms, presented the noble earl with a splendid gold medal ornamented with masonic emblems, set in brilliants, as a mark of the deep sense they entertained of his lordship's services, and their high admiration of his public and private character. The noble earl acknowledged the tribute in an address of considerable length, replete with the warmest expressions of kindness and regard. The business of the lodge having been concluded, the brethren sat down, at three o'clock, to a sumptuous dinner, comprising every delicacy of the season, and a profusion of the rarest and choicest wines. The dinner was fixed at this early hour to accommodate the brethren who came from a distance to attend this grand festival. The number of the guests amounted to about 150, among whom were sir H. Williamson, bart., M.P., sir W. Chaytor, bart., M.P., W. C. Harland, esq., M.P., J. G. Boss, esq., M.P., William Mills, esq., John Fawcett, esq., sir Cuthbert Sharp, the mayor and several of the aldermen of the city of Durham, together with a large assembly of the gentry of the county. At a late hour the brethren took their leave highly delighted with the urbanity of the noble earl, and his unwearied assiduity in promoting their comfort and gratification. A splendid suite of apartments in the castle, the gardens, and conservatory were all thrown open for the accommodation and entertainment of the company, and his lordship, accompanied by his countess, promenaded on the terrace, conversing, in the most kind and affable manner, with the guests.—*Local Papers.*

January 28.—Newcastle and the neighbourhood were visited by a severe storm of wind and rain, as were all the western parts of the county. From the circumstance of the Tyne rising to an unusual height, and overflowing its banks, the whole of the district below Blaydon, including Derwenthaugh, Scotswood, Dunstan, &c., was



ON THE QUAY, NEWCASTLE (1844).

completely under water, and in many of the houses it was nearly up to the second floor. At the time of high water at Newcastle, in the evening, the Close and the Quayside were completely flooded, the water extending on to the Sandhill, and a considerable distance up the Broad chare. Many cellars and warehouses in these situations were filled with water.—*Local Papers*.

1834 (Jan. 30).—Early on the morning, another case of the destruction of farm property occurred at Offerton, near Sunderland. Since the former fire, on the 21st of this month, Mr. Burnip, the proprietor of the stacks now destroyed, had kept a constant watch by night over his property, until the 29th, when he desisted, imagining that the high reward offered for the apprehension of those concerned in Mr. Elliot's conflagration would deter others from committing a similar act. He accordingly retired to rest at his usual hour, but awoke between one and two o'clock on the above morning, and not feeling satisfied, he determined on perambulating his farm yards,

which he did, and all appearing to be safe, he returned to his bed. A person passed the premises at three o'clock, at which time there was not any appearance of fire; but shortly after three o'clock, Mr. Burnip was aroused by a loud knocking at his door, and on looking out discovered that one of his stack-yards was in flames. The villagers on hearing of the catastrophe, ran to the spot, and used their best endeavours to prevent the destruction, which threatened the whole of Mr. Burnip's buildings and property. All classes, most promptly, rendered every assistance in their power; had it not been, however, for the immediate assistance rendered by an engine from one of lord Durham's collieries, the whole of the farm buildings must have been destroyed. The loss of property, nevertheless, was excessive, including eight stacks of wheat, four of oats, one of tares and beans, and two of hay. It was stated that a light had been perceived by a cottager on the opposite side of the Wear, about three o'clock in the morning, moving from stack to stack. The circumstance of two fires of such a magnitude, occurring in the same vicinity, in so short a time, produced a great sensation in the neighbourhood, and a very strong feeling of sympathy on behalf of the sufferers, Mr. Burnip, and his son, who are highly respected by all who know them.—*Local Papers.*

1834 (Feb. 5).—The 21st anniversary of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle, was held at their apartments in the building of the Literary and Philosophical Society. Mr. Adamson read the report, which embodied an account by the rev. John Hodgson, secretary, of the excavations carried on at the expense of the society, aided by a voluntary contribution, in the Roman station Borcovicus, at Housesteads, in the years 1830, 1831, and 1833, and of the researches made by the rev.



SEAL OF THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

A. Hedley, at his station of Vindolana, or Little Chesters, and by the late Mr. Crawhall, at Amboglanna or Burdoswald. The members afterwards dined in their library, which was tastefully fitted up for the occasion with the armour in the society's museum, to which Mr. Falla kindly added some beautiful specimens belonging to him. About twenty-five dined; sir Charles Monck in the chair, Mr. Adamson acted as his vice. It was a true antiquarian feast, and the evening was most agreeably spent.—*Local Papers.*



1834 (February 11).—Died, at his seat of Mainsforth, Robert Surtees,* esq., M.A., and F.S.A., the historian of the county of Durham.

This distinguished antiquary was born in the South Bailey, Durham, April 1st 1779. His father, Robert Surtees, esq., of Mainsforth, had married his first cousin, Dorothy daughter and co-heir of William Steele, esq., of Lamb abbey, in Kent, who became mother of the subject of this notice. And each parent possessed considerable talent. The father was a skilful amateur painter: and from his graver some etched vignettes of great spirit, ornament the volumes of his son.

Their only child who survived infancy, called Robert after his father, passed his school-boy years at Houghton-le-Spring, under the superintendence of Mr. Fleming; and was thence removed to Measden in Kent, and placed under the care of Dr. Bristow to be prepared for College. In the October of 1796 he entered as a Commoner at Christ Church College, Oxford; where he obtained a high reputation for Greek scholarship: and, at the end of his academic course, became a student at the Middle Temple, and read in the chambers of a conveyancer. But on the death of his father in 1802, before he was of standing to be called to the bar, he retired to Mainsforth, and relinquished his connection with the profession; though not, it is presumed, without having acquired, in his preparation for it, the power of rapidly mastering the contents of legal documents, which must afterwards have been of great service to him in collecting materials for his county history. On the 23 January, 1807, he married Anne,

* The arms of Surtees, prefixed to this notice, are copied from the tombstone of Robert Surteys of Ryton, who with his son Edward Surtees, (the one the great great grandfather, the other the great grandfather of the historian) purchased Mainsforth of the family of Hutton. The tombstone now forms one of the flags leading to the porch of Ryton church.

daughter of Ralph Robinson, esq., of Middle Herrington, in the county of Durham.

After this important step Mr. Surtees appears to have settled with greater perseverance to the composition of his history, which he had already commenced, and for completing which he was fitted by a rare combination of qualities. He was a great and very rapid reader, often gathering the matter of a page at a glance. It may be mentioned as an instance of the tenacity of his memory that, when he was one day calling on bishop Barrington, the bishop asked him if when he had leisure, he would make out the pedigree of some party who happened then to be a subject of interest or curiosity to his host; "Oh" answered Mr. Surtees, "if you will give me a pen and ink I will write it down for you now," and then, without referring to any authorities, at once drew out the pedigree with genealogical accuracy and minuteness. His genius was highly poetic; and it enabled him at once to discover the hidden beauties of Antiquity, while it assisted him in clearing away the dust which ages had spread over their ruins. Of Mr. Surtees' habits of composition it may be remarked that he seldom sat long at a time to write: but was accustomed to walk up and down on his terrace at Mainsforth to digest in his own mind the materials he had collected; during which he would return at intervals to his study and write down with great rapidity what he had thus prepared. The first vol. of his history of Durham was published in 1816, the second in 1820, the third in 1823, and the fourth, posthumously, in 1840. Of this work Dr. (Robert) Southey has said "No magazine is more miscellaneous in its contents than a book like this before us, which, though strictly methodical in its structure, is nevertheless, and of necessity, a farrago in folio. It is to be liked the better therefore, as king Henry's eldest son in the ballad was, for the heterogeneous legitimacy of his features; especially when, as in the present case, the farrago is brought together by one who is endowed, not only with the erudition and the perseverance required for such an undertaking, but also with such talent and genius as seldom condescend so to be employed; and with a playfulness of characteristic humour, which every now and then breaks out like a gleam of sunshine, to cheer his patient labours and excite the reader to a smile when least expecting to be so surprised."* Before bidding adieu to the history of Durham we may remark that the biographical sketches evince

* The article from which this is taken appeared in the Quarterly Review, No. 78, April, 1829: and has been ascertained to be from the pen of Southey. It ends by saying "We have confined ourselves chiefly to the general history here. The more

the kindness of the author's disposition, and the pedigrees and descents of property his laborious research, while the notes disclose the luxuriance of his own imagination,† together with an extensive cultivation of the polite literature of ancient and modern times.

The life of a literary man has few incidents for the biographer to lay hold of. Having no personal expense himself, except that involved in the beautiful form in which his history was brought out, Mr. Surtees was enabled to indulge towards others a liberality as insatiable as it was delicate. Though childless himself, he was ever ready to become the companion of children and when with them he would improvise such wild stories as young minds delight in:—

“Monsters and hydras and chymeras dire.”

Towards the neighbouring poor, by whom he was much beloved, he often carried his consideration to a fanciful refinement: thus he would stop the young friends with whom he might be walking from eating the wild strawberries that grew by the sides of the lanes, saying that they were for those who had no gardens; and he would drop small sums of money on the road, and enjoy the notion of the unexpected pleasure that the next poor person passing by would feel in acquiring them, unencumbered with the debt of gratitude. He extended his affectionate sympathies to the brute creation: and in his love for dogs, was a successful rival of his friend Sir Walter Scott. His manner was generally distinguished by courtesy and consideration for others: but false pretention of any sort he could not bring himself to tolerate; and unlucky was the man who in his presence ostentatiously affected to know more than he did, or to be more than he was; for, besides that he was unusually ready in wit and (when he chose it) sarcasm, it might be said of him on such occasions, as was said of Dr. Samuel Johnson, that, “if his pistol missed fire, he would knock you down with the butt end of it.” On the contrary, did there happen to be, in any society in which he was, a person who appeared to feel himself out of his element, he was sure to attach himself to that individual, and delicately direct his conversation to him till he had

miscellaneous divisions will afford curious materials for another paper when Mr. Surtees shall conclude his elaborate and very valuable work.”

Before, however, the last volume of this work was published the historian was dead, and the great intellect of the reviewer severed from his more tardy body, had ceased to belong to a world which it had so long and so much delighted.

† Many, however, of the scraps of poetry interwoven with the notes are of Mr. Surtees' own production; and it is presumed all those called “The Superstitions of the North” are such. At Mainsforth there are still in existence some short poems in manuscript composed by Mr. Surtees; of which the most beautiful appear to have been addressed to the object of his affections.

wheedled him into a state of comfortable self-complacency. Of his familiar conversation it may be observed that he used to tell quaint personal anecdotes, often drawn from antiquarian sources, with a peculiar raciness: and that he had a remarkable knack of improvising rhymes, for the most part of a humourous character; thus, he greeted Mr. Nichols, jun., the son of his publisher, when he came to visit him at Mainsforth, with:—

“Welcome young Stranger to my green retreats,
Forget my proofs and sleep between my sheets.”

He was buried, midst the tears of the surrounding poor, on the 15th February, 1834, in the church-yard of Bishop-Middleham, the parish in which Mainsforth is situated: and he is commemorated in its chancel by an elegant, but modest, inscription, which states that:—
“His talents, acquirements and character are developed in his book; and in the memoir of his life prefixed to it by a friendly but impartial hand.* His Christian Faith, principles, and hopes are best described in his own memorable words:—‘I am very sensible of the hardness of my heart, and of my totally corrupt nature. My only hope is in the merits of Christ; but I cannot hope for grace unless I strive to obtain it. What is our business?—To make our election sure—to take heed to our Salvation. Libera nos, Domine Jesu! audi nos!’”—*Compiled from various sources.*

1834 (Feb. 14).—This day, an old woman named Jane Gordon, arrived at the mendicity office, Newcastle, after travelling from her native place, Linlithgow, in Scotland, to Toworth, near Bawtry, in Yorkshire. She was 100 years of age, and had performed the task three times in the last three years, but in this her last attempt she failed. In June 1823, she walked upwards of 400 miles, at an average of eighteen miles per day, when it was found necessary to detain her, and her case being made known to several charitable individuals, a sum was soon raised to clothe and send her home. Mr. Radford, one of the proprietors of the Turf hotel coach office, generously gave her a free passage to Edinburgh. She had been a widow 54 years, and received an allowance, the last twenty years, from her husband's native place in Yorkshire.—*Local Papers.*

February.—In consequence of resolutions entered into at a meeting of the parishioners of St. John's, Newcastle, on the 18th of December, 1833, a subscription was raised for the warming of that church, which was completed this month by means of hot water passing through iron pipes. This is the only church in the town heated by water.—*Ibid.*

* That of George Taylor, esq., of Witton-le-Wear.

1834 (February).—The villages of Whickham, Burnopfield, Lancaster, Medomsley, Shotley-bridge, and the neighbouring places on the south banks of the Tyne, obtained the establishment of a daily post from Gateshead.—*Local Papers*.

This month, Mr. Bowes, of Chapel-row, near Bishop Auckland, having been annoyed by the occasional stopping of his clock, sent for a clock-maker to ascertain the cause, when it was found that a mouse had built her nest among the works, where she was actually rearing a young family.—*Ibid*.

February 14.—Died, at his house in Albion street, Newcastle, the rev. Henry Deer Griffith, M. A., perpetual curate of St. Andrew's, lecturer at St. Nicholas, and chaplain to the Trinity House. In the death of this gentleman the public had to deplore the loss of a very amiable and accomplished man, and a most able and eloquent minister of the established church. In life he was beloved and respected—he died esteemed and regretted by all who knew him. Mr. Griffith's funeral took place at St. Andrew's church, on the 19th. The house of the deceased being only a few paces from the church, the funeral was a walking one; and from the estimation in which Mr. Griffith had been held in the parish for a period of near twenty-three years, a large concourse of persons assembled to witness the interment. The pall was supported by the revs. Mr. Manisty, Mr. Walker, Mr. Green,² and Mr. Collinson, rector of Gateshead. After Mr. Griffith's son, Mr. Cockerill, and two other relatives of the deceased, the corpse was followed by all the clergymen of the established church in Newcastle, and some others from the neighbouring towns, in their canonicals—the gentlemen of the Trinity house—the Corporation gentlemen—the Churchwardens, and a number of inhabitants, together with the children of the parish schools. On the procession arriving at the church, the crowd had greatly increased, and every part of the building was completely filled. The corpse was received at the church gates by the rev. the vicar, who read the service within the church, and the rev. Mr. Manisty finished the ceremony at the grave.—Notwithstanding the number of persons assembled, the utmost order was observed, and many a tear was shed on the occasion. The pulpit, fronts of the galleries, communion table, &c. were all covered with black cloth, which struck the eye with more than usual solemnity on entering the church. A very handsome monument, from the chisel of Mr. David Dunbar, sculptor, was, shortly afterwards, erected in St. Andrew's church, to the memory of Mr. Griffith. Under an emblematical figure of Resignation is placed an inscription of which the following is a copy:—"Sacred to the Memory of the Rev. Henry Deer Griffith, M.A., late Minister of

this Parish, who died the 14th day of February, 1834, aged 49 years. His benevolent disposition, upright conduct, impressive yet unaffected manner of teaching the doctrines and enforcing the precepts of the gospel of Jesus Christ, endeared him to the congregation of this church, of which he was, during twenty-three years, the diligent and faithful pastor. In testimony of their sincere esteem and affectionate regard this monument was erected by the friends of the deceased."—*Local Papers*.



SOUTH TRANSEPT OF ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH (1844).

1834 (Feb. 15).—A disturbance took place at Snipper's Gate colliery, near Hetton, in consequence of the owners of the colliery ejecting a number of the workmen from their houses for refusing to work according to agreement. In the course of the day a number of colliers assembled on the premises, and in their attempt to frustrate the authorities in the execution of their duty, a general battle ensued, in which a number of the constables received severe bruises and wounds from the pitmen, many of whom were armed. In the evening an express arrived in this town for military assistance, and a troop of the Scots Greys were instantly dispatched, but before their arrival the disturbers had left the place.—*Ibid*.

February 15.—The miners employed at the Monkwearmonth colliery, penetrated through the main seam of coal, which is six feet nine inches in depth, and 264 fathoms from the surface.—*Ibid*.

1834 (Feb. 21).—Friday morning, about three o'clock, a fire broke out in the premises occupied by Mr. Douglass Lonie, cabinet maker, High-street, Sunderland, which consumed the whole of the premises, together with the Jews Synagogue next door. A poor woman, in attempting to jump out of a window, broke her leg in two places.—

Local Papers.

February 26.—Wednesday, about four o'clock, A. M., the bark mill, occupied by Mr. Jonathan Priestman, situated in Low Friar street, Newcastle, was discovered to be on fire. The engines of the Newcastle and North British Fire-offices, and those from the barracks, were presently in attendance, but from the strong wind which was blowing at the time, and the height which the fire had reached, before assistance could be procured, all hope of saving the premises where it first originated was abandoned. Every effort was, therefore, directed to prevent the dreadful conflagration from spreading, which was successful. The loss of property, however, was very considerable. The buildings, belonged to the Cordwainers' company, and were partially insured. Mr. Priestman had also a small insurance effected on the stock, which was very large. It is supposed the fire was caused by the falling of some sparks from the dye-house chimney among the bark.—*Ibid.*

March 15.—Saturday at night, between twelve and one o'clock, as a young man, named Masterton, a cooper in Newcastle, was assisting an acquaintance named Waddle, (who was in a state of intoxication,) to his residence at the South shore, near Messrs. Hawks and Co.'s foundry, he was accosted by three men when near Blackwall paper-mill, and knocked down by one of them with a piece of wood resembling a broken boat oar, and robbed of a sovereign, five shillings in silver, and his watch. His hat must have been thrown into the river, as it was found next morning near Redheugh. He was so dreadfully disabled that he could not move, and after being exposed to the cold several hours, was found betwixt six and seven in the morning with his pockets turned inside out, and on being removed home was in such a precarious state, that Mr. Alderman Shadforth attended on Sunday evening with Mr. J. Brown, and took his deposition. Waddle was also robbed, but not seriously injured. On the forenoon of Monday three young men were taken up on suspicion, viz. Benj. Bramwell and Martin Lenox, smiths with Messrs. Hawks and Co., and John Pybus, an apprentice to a builder. After undergoing an examination before the magistrates they were remanded until Wednesday, when they were again brought before the mayor and magistrates. Bramwell gave a voluntary account of himself, and such further information as implicated his companions, and warranted the

magistrates in committing them for trial. At the assizes held at Durham in the month of August following, Lenox and Pybus were found guilty of highway robbery; Branwell having been admitted king's evidence.—*Local Papers*.

1834 (March 20).—Thursday, a very fine vessel, of about eight keels burthen, and the only one ever built above the Tyne-bridge, was launched off a high quay at Chatham, in the presence of a large assemblage of spectators. She was called the Frolick; and intended for a Riga trader.—*Ibid*.

March 22.—During a heavy gale of wind, a new chapel, which was building at Monkwearmouth for the Baptists, was completely blown down. A considerable portion of the lead on the roof of the Natural History Society's building in Westgate-street, Newcastle, weighing upwards of a ton, was likewise blown down, and fell on the top of the adjacent sheds of Messrs. Dotchin, cabinet makers, and did considerable damage.—*Ibid*.



SEAL OF THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

March 24.—About 4 p. m., Ayton house, near Berwick, was discovered to be in flames, and the family and domestics just escaped with their lives, almost in a state of nudity. A messenger was immediately sent to Berwick, but before the engines could arrive, a great part of the roof had fallen in, and the furniture, library, &c. were destroyed. By the exertions of the firemen the kitchens, cellars, and one of the wings of the house were saved; every thing else was consumed. The fire was supposed to have originated in one of

the servants' rooms where she had left a candle burning. The furniture, &c. were insured in the Sun and Phoenix offices, to the amount of £8000.—*Local Papers.*

1834 (March 27).—As George Johnson, a man in the employ of Messrs. Robson and Fletcher, drysalters, Newcastle, was driving a cart of goods down to the carriers, Thomas Forster, who was driving a hackney coach, belonging to Mr. H. B. Wallace, unfortunately run against him with such violence as to bring him in contact with the shaft of the cart which was standing in the street, and to cause three of his ribs to be broken. He lay on the footpath for some time as if dead. The man who drove the hackney was conveying a person to Durham who had a broken leg, and strange to say, as soon as he had driven the coach to Durham, he complained himself of being ill, requested to be taken to his son's house, and died the following morning.—*Ibid.*

March 28.—The following melancholy event took place at Low Buston, near Warkworth:—a cow, roused by some boys, attacked a female who was driving her, and tossed her several times over her head, and continued to gore her for some minutes, notwithstanding the efforts of several individuals who were attracted to the spot, and had much difficulty in extricating the poor woman from her perilous situation. She was, however, removed to a house, and found to be much injured, and in a dangerous state. Another woman, an eye-witness to the accident, and who had gone to her assistance, died immediately afterwards, from the effects of the fright.—*Ibid.*

March 30.—Mr. William Gallon, of Wooler, innkeeper, when digging a drain to conduct water into his court-yard, from the Water Company's pipes in the street, dug up two pavements, and underneath the second, found a large stone trough of a singular shape, being wide at one end and narrow at the other, full of rich black mould, with a small quantity of white earthy substance resembling adipocere of very offensive odour; from which circumstance it was thought to be an ancient stone coffin, one end of which was close to the foundation of his house, the latter being nearly 200 years old.—*Ibid.*

April 8th.—A public meeting was held in the Library, Howard Street, North Shields, of the shipowners, merchants, &c., to take into consideration the propriety of establishing a Chamber of Commerce; when, after several of the gentlemen present had spoken in favour of such an institution, it was unanimously agreed to form one, and upwards of fifty names were set down as subscribers to carry the object into effect.—*Ibid.*

April 9.—A dead body of a woman named Ann Lumsden, was found upon the sea shore at Hendon, near Sunderland, supposed to

have been murdered. A man named Thomas Hodgson, was fully committed to take his trial upon the charge, but was honourably acquitted at the assizes held at Durham in the following August.—*Local Papers.*

1834 (April 9).—A county meeting convened by the High Sheriff, in pursuance of a requisition signed by the marquis of Londonderry, and about 400 other owners of property, was held at Durham, to petition parliament against the passing of the General Registry Bill. The meeting was not very numerously attended, but it was highly respectable and influential in its character. The High Sheriff presided; and most of the landed gentry in the county were present. A series of resolutions, condemnatory of the proposed measure, and pointing out the evil consequences that would result from its enactment, was submitted to the meeting, and petitions to both houses of the legislature, founded on them, were agreed to.—*Ibid.*

April 10.—Thursday, afternoon, a fire broke out in the roof of a thatched house at Haydon bridge, occupied by Mr. Howey, tailor, and spread so rapidly that in less than two hours Howey's premises and two other houses occupied by Mr. Polliard, draper, and Mr. Henry Pickering, miller, were reduced to bare walls. The furniture, goods, and some other buildings in great danger, were saved from the devouring element by the praiseworthy exertions of the inhabitants of the village and neighbourhood. The fire was supposed to have been kindled from one of the chimnies.—*Ibid.*

April 16.—Died, at Bedlington, north Durham, aged 104, Mary, widow of Mr. Robert Gallon.—*Ibid.*

April 20.—Sunday, in the morning, a fog rose from the river between the two towns of Shields, so dense as to obscure the one completely from the other; it lasted about an hour and a half, when it disappeared as suddenly as it rose. The day was particularly fine till about three o'clock, when another fog arose, and continued about the same length of time, when it again dispersed.—*Ibid.*

April 27.—A meeting was held at the Queen's Head inn, Durham, John Ralph Fenwick, esq., M.D., in the chair, when it was determined to establish a literary society, to be called "The Surtees Society" in honour of the late Robert Surtees, of Mainsforth, esq., the historian of Durham, and in accordance with his taste and pursuits, to have for its object the publication of unedited MSS. illustrative of the intellectual, the moral, the religious, and the social condition of those parts of England and Scotland, included on the east between the Humber and the Frith of Forth, and on the west between the Mersey and the Clyde, a region which at one period constituted the ancient kingdom of Northumberland. The books which

have been published by the society, have contributed greatly to the elucidation of the ancient History of a district, replete with interest. The first officers of the Society were the following. PRESIDENT: The duke of Buccleuch. TREASURERS: Robert Henry Allan, esq., F.S.A., John Gough Nichols, esq., F.S.A. SECRETARY: Rev. James Raine, M. A.—*Local Papers.*



MAINSFORTH, THE SEAT OF THE LATE ROBERT SURTEES, ESQ.

1834 (April 31).—Wednesday, Charles May, a clerk in the office of a solicitor in Newcastle, was fully committed for trial at the assizes, on a charge of stealing 174 volumes, and a great number of prints, which had been torn out of books, all belonging to Dr. Thomlinson's library, in St. Nicholas' church, in that town. May was transported for seven years.—*Ibid.*

May 6.—Tuesday, an elegant new barge, for the use of the right worshipful the mayor and corporation of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, was launched from the building-yard of Messrs. John Oliver and Son, boat builders, South Shields.—*Ibid.*

May 12.—Monday, a fire broke out on the premises belonging to Cresswell Baker, esq., at Hareup Hill End, near Bewick, in the county of Northumberland, occupied by two farm servants, which consumed the whole of the building, together with a quantity of corn that was in the granary, also three wheat stacks, and a large hay rick. The fire originated in the chimney.—*Ibid.*

May 15.—The upper part of the Stanhope and Tyne railroad,

extending from Stanhope to Annfield, county of Durham, a distance of about sixteen miles, was opened. A party of gentlemen left Annfield at eight o'clock in the morning, by a railway waggon, tastefully fitted up for the occasion, and arrived at the termination of the line about eleven, highly gratified with the whole line of road, but especially with that part of it which crosses the precipitous ravine called the Hownes. At one o'clock, the first four line carriages were started from the spacious range of kilns belonging to the company, and speedily ascended the steep inclined plane, adjoining Stanhope, amidst the cheers of an immense crowd of spectators, who, notwithstanding the wetness of the early part of the morning, had assembled from all parts of the adjacent country. A splendid dinner had been provided for 400 persons by the spirited proprietors of the railway, but the hilarity of the occasion was much damped by the occurrence of a serious and fatal accident. Four waggons, in which there could not be less than from forty to fifty people, chiefly labourers connected with the railway, had just commenced the descent of the second inclined plane, when one of the shackles which attached the rope from the engine to the waggons suddenly snapped, and the waggons ran with great velocity against some other waggons, when by the shock one man was killed, and a boy, nine years of age, so seriously injured, that he died during the night. Several others had bones fractured by leaping off the waggons during their descent, and some received contusions. The first locomotive engine was placed upon this line, at South Shields, on the first of May.—*Local Papers.*

1834 (May 25).—The new organ erected in St. Andrew's church, Newcastle, built by Gray of London, was opened by Mr. Munro, and Mr. Gray, the organist of St. Pancras' chapel, when a sermon was preached, an anthem sung by the choir of St. Nicholas, and a collection made in aid of the fund for the purchase of the instrument. The organ had been minutely inspected and approved by sir George Smart, in London, at the instance of the committee; and he, as well as several eminent organists, pronounced it to be of the finest description.—*Ibid.*

May 28.—Wednesday, being his majesty's birth day, a royal salute was fired from the castle. The bells rung several merry peals during the day, and the Newcastle volunteers fired a feu de joie on the Sandhill. The ships in the harbour also hoisted their flags, and other demonstrations of joy were observed in different parts of the town. The mayor gave a grand dinner at the mansion house, and an assembly took place at the Assembly rooms in the evening. At North Shields, and Tynemouth the day was similarly observed: the bells of Tynemouth church rung at intervals. At twelve o'clock, a royal

salute was fired from the guns at Tynemouth castle, and the seaman's loyal standard association committee rooms in Hudson street, were beautifully decorated with flags on the occasion.—*Local Papers.*

1834 (May 28).—While a miller's horse and cart were turning off the turnpike in the High street, Gateshead, a woman, who was in the habit of going about selling sweatmeats, sounded a horn, which frightened the horse, and it sprung forward upon the children sitting and standing round the woman, killing one little girl of the name of Jane Donnison, aged three years, and wounding two or three others, one of whom had its leg and arm broken.—*Ibid.*

May.—The Newcastle Water Works bill, and the Hartlepool Railway bill, were read and passed.—*Ibid.*

June 18.—In consequence of public notice previously given, the committee and members of the shipwreck society, the master and brethren of the Trinity house, the shipowners' society, together with a large concourse of the respectable inhabitants of Newcastle, Shields, and Sunderland, and the surrounding neighbourhood, assembled on the Herd sands, to witness the comparative trial between captain Manby's apparatus for saving lives from shipwreck, and the rockets and apparatus invented for that purpose, by John Dennett, esq., of the Isle of Wight. The trial was most satisfactory in its result. The experiments commenced with a shot from the Manby apparatus, directed so as to carry a line between two objects placed on the beach to represent the length of a ship, at a distance of 200 yards; owing to too slight an elevation being given to the mortar, the shot fell short of the objects. Mr. Dennett, who directed the rocket apparatus in person, then fired one of the rockets, which went off most beautifully, falling considerably beyond the objects, and nearly in the centre of them, and the line came to the beach between them. The range of this rocket was 314 yards, and its success was greeted by a burst of cheering and applause from the assembled multitude. A second rocket was fired with a view to shew the precision with which rockets can be used: its line of direction did not vary from that of the first more than about four yards at the spot where it fell; its range rather exceeded that of the first, being 321 yards, whilst owing to the strength of the breeze, the line was carried a little to leeward of the objects. A second shot was now fired from Manby's apparatus, with an increased elevation of the mortar, and an increased charge (10 oz.), but with a much better effect than before; the shot fell a few yards beyond the objects, and placed the line well between them: the range of this shot was about 220 yards. Another rocket was now sent off, with the intention of placing the line between the objects, and without regard to precision of aim, allowance being made for the breeze; in

this instance the rope was well placed between the objects, and the range of the rocket was 310 yards: it fell before the composition was entirely expended, an attempt having been made to check the progress of the line after the rocket had passed over the marks. At the third shot with Manby's apparatus, the large line was attached, but, on firing, it parted near the shot. Mr. Dennett now set off a rocket without any rope attached to it, to shew the resistance the rocket has to overcome when it has a rope to carry out. This rocket went away with a most magnificent flight, cleaving the air, and ascending to a height of several hundred feet in its course, until its progress was nearly lost to the sight: the presumed range of this rocket was considerably above 2,000 yards: it passed over the heads, and fell several hundred yards beyond some men who had gone out for the shot that had broken away from Manby's apparatus. At this period rain was beginning to fall, and the experiments closed, the company bestowing three hearty cheers on Mr. Dennett and the rockets before they separated, and strongly expressing the delight and satisfaction they had experienced. The advantages of the rocket over the Manby apparatus are clearly considerable, its portability not being the least. Two men can carry the whole of the rocket apparatus and six rockets, whilst it requires ten men to carry the Manby apparatus. The rocket can be taken to situations where it would be impossible to carry the other. The explosion of the composition at night casts such a light as will inform both the people on board and on shore of the direction the rocket is taking, if the shot is a successful one. In precision of aim it is fully equal, if not superior, to Manby's apparatus; in extent of range it exceeds it; and from the lesser angle with which it flies, a smaller quantity of rope is taken out, and the liability of the rope being carried to leeward of the object fired at, by the action of the wind, is thereby much reduced.—*Local Papers.*

1834 (June 18).—A boat regatta took place at Durham. At six o'clock on the evening, the different boats upon the river Wear, proceeded in grand procession from the Prebend's bridge up the river to Old Durham, accompanied by a band of music, which played the greater part of the way. The rowers in the several boats were all dressed in their different uniforms, and each boat had a small flag flying from its stern. The boats afterwards came back to the Prebend's bridge, and each took in some ladies, and proceeded up the water again towards Old Durham. The rowing on the water terminated a little after nine o'clock; after which, a quantity of fireworks were set off from a platform, erected for that purpose at the water side, near the Banks mill. On the following day, a similar exhibition took place.—*Ibid.*

1834 (June 19).—A disturbance took place in the Pudding chare, Newcastle, in consequence of a young man, who said he was a tailor, entering a notorious house there, in a state of extreme intoxication, from which he was soon after forcibly ejected, and fell into the street. Immediately after recovering himself he thundered violently at the door and not being re-admitted he commenced smashing the squares of glass in the lower windows, cutting his hands severely in the operation. He was taken away to the Infirmary by a few acquaintances. After his removal, a mob principally of children collected about the house and commenced throwing mud and missiles of various descriptions, till a great number of the windows were demolished.—*Local Papers.*

June 22.—A new catholic chapel at Minster Acres was opened.—*Ibid.*

June 23.—Workmen began to prepare ground at the entrance of the Sunderland market for the erection of the arcade there.—*Ibid.*

June 25.—The excise, having information of the existence of an illicit still being carried on in some premises in the Close, Newcastle, two officers proceeded to an old building, situate in the entry of the Dog public-house, and having succeeded in gaining admission by means of a ladder, they discovered, in a room near the top of the building, a still, which had evidently been recently in operation, also in various tubs upwards of 100 gallons of wash, and about three gallons of spirit ready for sale. The whole of the apparatus, together with the spirits and five casks, were removed to the excise office. No one was found in connexion with the apparatus, nor was any clue obtained by which the proprietors might be traced.—*Ibid.*

June 29.—Sunday, the new church at Shildon, calculated to contain 1300 persons, was opened for divine worship by license from the lord bishop of Durham. The rev. J. Manisty, curate of the new chapelry, officiated on the occasion. After the ceremony of the opening had been observed, an excellent and appropriate sermon was preached by the rev. gentleman. This handsome structure was consecrated by the lord bishop of Durham on the 9th of September following, in the presence of a numerous congregation.—*Ibid.*

June.—Some surplus having remained from a subscription for the repair of the steeple of St. Nicholas, Newcastle, the churchwardens determined upon using it in the erection of a porch and buttresses, on the north side, corresponding with those on the south. This month, the removal of the old north porch was, in consequence, commenced.—*Ibid.*

July 1.—Tuesday, a numerous meeting of the Sunderland Archers, was held on their ground at Hendon, to contend for the honours

attached to the society; the shooting was admirable, and the day being fine, a brilliant assemblage of ladies honoured the scene of this ancient and fascinating amusement by their presence. The subscribers and a party of their friends afterwards sat down to an elegant dinner at the club house, at six o'clock.—*Local Papers*.

1834 (July 1).—A prisoner of the name of James Liddell, convicted at the Durham assizes of forgery, escaped from the prison between the hours of one and two o'clock, in the afternoon. He had forced two locks, and, by the assistance of some rope and a ladder, got over the back walls of the prison.—*Ibid*.

July 2.—The black tigress belonging to Wombwell's menagerie, produced a litter of young ones in Newcastle. This is the first instance of a breed having been obtained from these animals in England.—*Ibid*.

About this period an individual named Thomas Elliott, aged 87, but better known in most parts of Northumberland as Tommy the Tinker, died at Chollerton Edge, in that county. He generally resided at Stamfordham, and in his peregrinations through life, used frequently to walk from Tweedmouth to the latter place, a distance of upwards of sixty miles, in one day. He was very industrious, and is said to have reaped corn regularly every year for seventy-four years.—*Ibid*.

July 4.—A dog, which was in an attic room, in a three story house, in Maude's lane, Sunderland, on a gesture made by the person with whom it was in charge, sprung through the window, which was open, and fell to the ground on the pavement unhurt, a height of 23 feet. The animal was upwards of four stone weight.—*Ibid*.

July 10.—The foundation stone of a new church, at Dinnington, endowed by the warden and fellows of Merton college, Oxford, and Matthew Bell, esq., M. P., was laid by Wm. Robson, esq.—*Ibid*.

July 15.—The bells of the several churches in Newcastle, rung several merry peals on account of the common council giving their formal sanction to Mr. Grainger's improvement plans. The same evening, Mr. G.'s workmen were regaled in the Nun's-field with a plentiful supply of strong ale, &c., which drew together a great crowd of spectators, whose excited feelings led them to acts of violence. After being desired to depart, they became furious, and broke into the mansion called Anderson place, occupied by T. Anderson, esq., and destroyed nearly the whole of a splendid old stair-case, and did other mischief.—*Ibid*.

July 19.—There was living at Stella Path-head, a widow named Catherine Miles, of the extraordinary age of 103 years; and so active and vigorous, that a month previously she carried a stone of flour

from Newcastle to her home, a distance of five or six miles. Her son had promised to carry her to Stella in the wherry, but she would not wait for that conveyance.—*Local Papers.*

1834 (July 21).—A regatta was held at Sunderland, on which occasion that town presented an unusual scene of gaiety. The weather proved very fine, and notwithstanding the immense numbers of boats, both at sea and on the river, no serious accident happened. The races were from the Pier-end about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to sea and back, and were well contested for the various prizes.—*Ibid.*

July 22.—A murder was perpetrated on the body of Thomas Lee, at Hebburn quay. It appears that a slight quarrel arose at a tea drinking at a public-house there, by Thomas Lee accidentally putting out his foot, which tripped up a girl while dancing, and broke her sandal; she immediately made complaint to her sweetheart, Daniel Stewart, who remonstrated with Lee in an angry tone, Lee readily apologized, and Stewart shook hands. The three then in token of reconciliation drunk each others health; but two of Stewart's companions (sailors) were desirous to fight Lee, who declined the combat with either, and the two men were prevented from striking Lee by the forcible interference of others of the company. The festivities continued till 2 o'clock, when the party broke up. The quarrel recommenced when the sailors had gone toward their ships and after Lee had been killed by striking his head with a pewter pot, he was thrown into the water and was not found till half tide next morning at ten o'clock. At the assizes held in the next week, one of the men named Willis, was found guilty of manslaughter, and sentenced to seven years transportation.—*Ibid.*

July 24.—Wednesday, a splendid large ship, fully rigged and manned, with one hundred tons of ballast in her hold, and in every respect fit for sea, was launched from the building-yard of Mr. Reay, Walker, on the Tyne, and proceeded to sea about one hour after. A short time previous to the launch, a person, in climbing up a ladder, leading to the deck, unfortunately fell, and fractured his skull, which caused instant death.—*Ibid.*

July 27.—A new Wesleyan chapel was opened at Killingworth.—*Ibid.*

July 28.—Monday evening, while a horse and gig were awaiting two gentlemen in the main street of Sunderland, the horse became affrighted, and the man who had the charge of it losing his hold, it took off at full speed down the street; it soon came in contact with a lamp post, which it broke, and unfortunately just at that moment, a poor blind man called Thomas Willis, better known as blind Tom, was passing the spot; part of the lamp post fell upon his head and

fractured his skull, and the gig also went over him. The poor man was so dreadfully bruised, that he died the next morning at one o'clock. A coroner's inquest was held on Thursday, and a verdict of manslaughter returned against John Burnip, publican.—*Local Papers.*

1834 (July 29).—Tuesday, Mr. Green, according to a promise he had made to the inhabitants of Darlington, in consequence of a failure in an attempt to ascend a few days before, commenced the process of inflating his balloon in a field, the use of which was granted for the occasion, adjoining Mr. Edward Pease's house. About a quarter before six o'clock, the balloon having received a supply of gas, the cords were slackened to allow it to clear itself. It was then fastened on a cart with the car, in which Mr. Green and two females were seated. It was then conducted up Northgate, preceded by a band playing some favourite airs. It was a magnificent sight, and the street was much crowded with spectators. On reaching the market, he made a splendid ascent, to the admiration of an immense multitude. He landed at Pillmoor house, near Croft, about four miles from Darlington.—*Ibid.*

July.—A most abundant supply of mackerel was taken in Sunderland haven. It is not often that this fish is found on the eastern coast.—*Ibid.*

July 30.—Wednesday, Mr. Grainger commenced to take the levels and lay out the intended new markets and streets in the Nuns' field, Newcastle. During the excavations the workmen found an ancient east of a crucifix, the remains of a gilt spur, a farthing of William the third, and two other small coins. The accompanying engraving represents a fragment of a blue marble tomb stone, found in the same ground, in March 1835.—*Ibid.*



CHAPTER IX.



IED, at his residence, No. 6, in the Danish Hong, Canton, on the 1st of August 1834, the rev. Robert Morrison, D.D. This distinguished Christian missionary and oriental scholar, was born, at Windgates, in the parish of Longhorsley, Northumberland, on the 5th of January, 1782; but removed, in infancy, to Bowie's, or Buller's green, Morpeth, where he continued to reside till about 1785, when his parents removed to Newcastle. He was first taught reading, writing, and arithmetic by his uncle, Mr. James Nicholson, a respectable teacher in that town; but at an early age became apprentice to his father, who was a Dumfermline man, and whose business was that of a last and boot-tree maker, in which business his son soon became skilful and industrious. The shop in which he wrought was in a passage in the Groat market, now known by the name of Dagg's



OLD HOUSES, HEAD OF THE GROAT MARKET (1844).

entry. Whilst but a youth, however, he became the subject of serious religious impressions, principally by means of the catechetical instructions given to the young people connected with the High bridge chapel; and from that time the duties of religion engrossed his affections, and the acquirement of classical knowledge his ambition. He became desirous of entering into the Christian ministry, and began to read Latin and Greek, under the rev. A. Laidlaw, minister of the Presbyterian meeting, in Silver street. Here also he commenced to read Hebrew, to write short-hand, to study theology, and became a zealous member of the Society for the relief of the friendless poor. January 7, 1804, he commenced probationer in the academy, at Hoxton, and on the 21st, was fully admitted. Nearly twelve months after, the London missionary society accepted his services as a missionary to Canton, in China, and he removed to the academy of that institution, at Gosport, where he learned French, but gave his greatest attention to the Chinese language, in which he was assisted by Yung Saams Tak, a native of China. Two years after, he went to study medicine in London; and after attending a regular course of lectures in that science, and the hospitals for some time, commenced astronomy at Greenwich under Dr. Hutton. His copy of the Harmony of the Gospels, in Chinese, and now in the British Museum, was written before he left England. On January 31, 1807, he left England for China, by the way of America; and on the 4th of September, arrived at Macao. He brought letters of introduction from the American Secretary of state, and was domesticated in the factory of Messrs. Milner and Bull, American agents. The first sixteen months of his residence, however, were extremely irksome, and attended by many privations and difficulties, as will appear from the fact of his spending the day with his teacher, studying, eating, and sleeping in a room underground; adopting the Chinese costume; foregoing the pleasures of intercourse with his countrymen, and taking his meat with the Chinese who taught him the language. On the 20th February, 1809, he married his first wife, Miss Morton, eldest daughter of John Morton, esq., of Liverpool, a surgeon in the royal artillery; and on the same day accepted an appointment in the company's factory. In 1810 the translation of the Acts of the Apostles was printed, and in 1811 the Gospel of St. Luke, and other smaller works, including a grammar. In 1813, he was joined by Mr. Milne, and in conjunction with him completed the old and new Testaments, the book of common prayer, and many other religious works. The first great object of the mission was to form a Chinese Dictionary, the next to translate the Scriptures. Both these great works have been accomplished by the two first men appointed to the mission, Mr. Morrison and

Mr. Milne, the latter of whom departed this life some years ago. The translation of the scriptures was a work common to both of these two eminent missionaries. The translation and compilation of the Dictionary was Mr. Morrison's own, and is the monument of his fame. In 1816, Mr. Morrison accompanied Lord Amherst to Peking, and he drew up and published a memoir of that unsuccessful embassy. On the 24th December, 1817, the *Senatus Academicus* of Glasgow unanimously conferred the title of Doctor in Divinity on Mr. Morrison, in token of their approbation of his philological labours. In 1818, Dr. Morrison founded the Anglo Chinese college at Malacca. He devoted the sum of £1,000. to the erection of the house, and £100 a year for the first five years, commencing from the opening of the college, for the encouragement of the students and tutors. His wife, by whom he had a son and daughter, died in 1820. In 1821, when the company's ships left the Canton river on account of what is generally called the "Lintin affair," Dr. Morrison was the only member of the company's factory who was acquainted with the Chinese language, all those who had studied it being absent in England. On this occasion, the advice of Dr. Morrison was of the greatest use to the committee, and there can be no doubt but that by his talents and exertions the affair was brought to a more speedy and creditable termination than it would otherwise have been; and the company saved a large sum of money in demurrage. In 1823, Dr. Morrison returned to England, after he had more than completed his appointed task, and was received with that distinction by the government and the court of Directors which he had so well earned. He was presented to the King, and delivered a copy of the Chinese version of the Scriptures. In 1824, he married Miss Armstrong, at Liverpool, and returned to China, under the auspices of the court of directors, in 1826. In the frequent discussions which have occurred of late years with the local authorities the services of Dr. Morrison can be best appreciated by those who profited most by them—the different select committees of the company's factory. His second family increased to five children, and his health appeared to be strong until the summer of 1833, when it began to yield to the effects of climate; and was not much benefitted by the cold weather of winter. On the arrival of Lord Napier, in July 1834, he accepted the office of Chinese secretary and interpreter, to H. M. superintendents, and accompanied his lordship on his journey from Macao to Canton, where he arrived very early on the morning of the 25th of that month. He had been much exposed to the weather which was boisterous and rainy, during the passage, and his illness was increased in consequence, but his friends were not alarmed for his life until a very short time before it became extinct.

His remains were followed from his residence to the river side by lord Napier and all the Europeans, Americans, and Asiatic British subjects in Canton. The corpse was forwarded to Macao, and followed to the grave by about forty European gentlemen, and interred in the private protestant burial ground in that settlement. The rev. John Hodgson, in his elaborate history of Northumberland, vol. 2. part 2, gives a biographical notice of Dr. Morrison, from which many of the above facts are taken.

1834 (Aug. 1).—Monday, a new Joint stock coach, commenced to run between Gateshead and Stanhope, by way of Whickham, Burnopfield, Lanchester, Wolsingham, &c. This is the first coach ever attempted on that line of road.—*Local Papers*.



WOLSINGHAM CHURCH (1836).

August 6.—Died, in the 73rd year of his age, James Wilkie, M. D., resident surgeon and apothecary to the Dispensary Newcastle, which important situation he filled upwards of fifty years. During this long period he discharged, with great ability, singular fidelity and unwearied zeal, the duties of his office, to which his uncommon healthy constitution, and vigorous mind, enabled him punctually to attend, till within a few months of the close of his valuable life. He was remarkable for his simplicity of manners, energy and decision of character, honest pride, love of justice and integrity, and for his native humanity, and benevolence of disposition, and steady attachment to his friends; but the most prominent quality in his character, and the one for which he is entitled to be remembered with the greatest respect and gratitude, was his generous and humane attention to every case of distress which it was in his power to relieve.—*Ibid*.

August 9.—Saturday, a locust of extraordinary size was found alive in the Nursery of William Falla, esq., of Gateshead. It was similar

to the specimen described by Linnæus as the migratory locust. This is a very singular circumstance, and its being found is of very rare occurrence in that part of the country.—*Local Papers.*

1834 (Aug. 10).—The fine ship, Palmer, 600 tons burthen, sailed from Newcastle with passengers and goods to Van Dieman's land, and New South Wales, being the first vessel that had left the port of Tyne for these colonies.—*Ibid.*

August 18.—The foundation stone of a Wesleyan chapel was laid at Gainford, near Darlington.—*Ibid.*

August 19.—Tuesday, a girl, 17 years of age, named Nancy Goodhill, met her death in a pit at Little Hulton, near Darlington, in consequence of an explosion of inflammable gas. Two men were nearly suffocated by the after-damp in endeavouring to rescue the unfortunate female, whose father, it appears, caused the accident by an incautious exposure of his candle. He was himself seriously burnt.—*Ibid.*

August 22.—Friday, whilst the late earl of Durham was standing upon Pallion quay, Sunderland, near the spot where his yacht was fitting out, a person named Parkin, apparently tipsy, attempted to go on board. His lordship mildly asked him where he was going, when Parkin came from the vessel towards him, and brandishing a large stick in a furious manner, accompanying his action with coarse and violent language, threatened to attack him, which he subsequently attempted to do, but was prevented by the persons on board the yacht. He refused to go away, and finding that he was determined upon mischief, a constable was sent for, and he was eventually consigned to the lock up at Bishopwearmouth. On being afterwards visited, it was ascertained that he had, during the short period of his imprisonment, demolished the bedstead, and completely torn up the boards from the sleepers. Previous to the door being opened, he threatened, with dreadful oaths, to kill the first man who entered; and accordingly, when the door was opened, he rushed out, and with a long clasp knife, aimed a blow at Mr. Bailes, which penetrated the breast of his waistcoat, and must have proved serious in its consequences had it not fortunately taken a slanting direction. He was examined before the magistrates on Monday, and committed to take his trial at the next sessions.—*Ibid.*

Same day, the foundation stone of the new bridge at Bellingham was laid at the north-east corner of the south abutment, by J. W. Charlton, jun. esq., of Hesleyside. A numerous body of spectators assembled from the surrounding district, amongst whom was a party of ladies from Hesleyside. A temporary railroad had been previously thrown across the river for the purpose of conveying the materials by a travelling crane, and the ceremony of the day was begun by Messrs.

Charlton, senior and junior, and Mr. Green (the architect for the bridge) placing themselves on the foundation stone, which was then drawn up by the crane, carried rapidly across the river, and lowered into the coffer-dam and set, the process only occupying about five minutes. Mr. Charlton, junior, then invited the company to drink success to the bridge, which was instantly done with three times three. Two other stones were then laid in a similar manner, by Mr. Charlton's two younger sons; at the conclusion of the second, the health of Mr. Green, the architect, and Messrs. Welsh, the contractors, was proposed by Mr. Charlton, sen., and, at the third, the health of Mrs. Charlton and the ladies who had honoured the ceremony with their presence. The bridge is of considerable magnitude, being composed of four fifty-foot segmental arches of graceful rise; and forms an interesting feature in the beautiful scenery on the banks of the north Tyne, and, while it is an ornament to the country, it will be of the greatest advantage to the district, where great inconvenience has long been experienced, and many lives have been lost from the want of such an accommodation. The cost of the bridge was defrayed by private subscription, and great praise is due to Mr. Charlton for his exertions and liberality in forwarding the undertaking.—*Local Papers*.

1834 (Aug. 25).—Monday, Mr. Wm. Walker, mason, of Branton, Northumberland, and Mr. Wm. Atkinson, joiner, Powburn, accompanied by Mr. Thomas Duncan, teacher, Glanton, left Branton early in the morning to go a trout-fishing in the river Breamish. In consequence of the heavy fall of rain that morning, the water began very rapidly to overflow the banks, and whilst the party were attempting to cross a small brook which runs into the Breamish, but which had swollen very much with the rain, the melancholy circumstance took place. Walker, who went into the water first, immediately sunk to the bottom; and disappeared. Atkinson, who was a very athletic man, plunged in to save him, but, unhappily, he sunk also, but soon afterwards came to the top, and reached out his fishing rod, which he still kept hold of, to Mr. Duncan. Unfortunately, however, the water was running so furiously, that the rod on which the life of Atkinson and Walker—(Mr. Duncan thinks that Atkinson had hold of Walker when he held out the rod)—was depending, broke, and they again sunk to rise no more. Mr. Duncan's humanity for his fellow-sufferers prompted him to plunge in also, to endeavour to rescue them, but he was soon carried away with the furious current; and had it not been for the timely assistance of Mr. Robert Donkin, Ingram, he would have shared the fate of his companions. He was taken out of the water almost in a lifeless state. An inquest was held on the following day on the two bodies. Verdict—Accidentally drowned.—*Ibid.*

1834 (Aug. 27).—Mr. Green the celebrated æronaut made an ascent from Sunderland. About six o'clock, the evening was very serene, with a light current from the south-west. The æronaut caused the balloon to be liberated from its moorings in Zion-street. In rising it veered to the north, and the car, in which Mr. G. was placed was dragged against the front of an adjoining house. The balloon not being sufficiently inflated, ascended very slowly and the greatest height was not two hundred yards. It took a north-east direction towards the sea, and in about a quarter of an hour, and at a distance of about four hundred yards from the place of ascent, the balloon alighted on the corner of a house in Burleigh or High-street, and was soon after secured. On the 9th September, Mr. Green made another attempt to ascend from Frederick street, in that town, accompanied by Mr. Vipond, painter, but the balloon soon came in contact with a spout on Zion chapel, which tore the silk, and the gas escaped rapidly. It was intended to have again made the ascent the following day, but a boisterous wind during the night blew the balloon against some iron pallisades, and so greatly damaged it, that his third attempt was not made till September 25, when he ascended from Mr. Thompson's raff-yard, near the gasworks. On this occasion he was again accompanied by Mr. Vipond, but the balloon coming in contact with the mast of a ship, the latter gentleman thought it prudent to get out of the car into the round-top of the vessel. The balloon then ascended to the altitude of nearly a mile, and after remaining in the air about twenty minutes, it descended into the sea, near Whitburn, and Mr. Green was rescued from his perilous situation by a pilot's coble.—*Local Papers.*

August 29.—As two young women, sisters, named Knox, who work at Messrs. Clarke and Plummer's spinning mill, Ouseburn, Newcastle, were returning home between ten and eleven o'clock from a visit to their friends at Tinkler row, by the waggon way till they reached Ravensworth wood through which there is a regular path, after walking about 100 yards in the wood, and when near a hollow part of it, they distinctly heard a number of voices, and a man passed them on horseback, but did not notice them. On getting nearer to the noise they heard one man say "deliver," and a second "he is not willing." Some heavy blows were also struck, which the females positively declare they heard, after which another voice exclaimed "O dear!" They were dreadfully agitated, but pursued their course, when they were passed by two men, and immediately afterwards by three more, none of whom molested them. The night was rather dark, and before they had walked many yards

farther, the eldest female trod on the body of a man; she saw his face, he appeared to be dead, and was dressed in dark clothes; her sister was also an eye witness to the same. Still more alarmed they hurried out of the wood, and reached home safely, but did not make the circumstance known till the following day, when an examination of the affair took place before the magistrates, but nothing further transpired to throw additional light upon the matter, although every exertion was used. No person in the neighbourhood was missing, and no trace of the body could be found. If a murder therefore was perpetrated, the murderers must have concealed their victim, and he have been a stranger.—*Local Papers.*

1834 (Aug. 29).—Died, at Percy-main, aged 93, Mr. Charles Gardener: it is somewhat remarkable, that during his long life, it only cost him two shillings and sixpence for medicine, and one shilling for extracting two teeth; he worked until his 90th year.—*Ibid.*

August 31.—Sunday morning about one o'clock, a man named Story, belonging to Eppleton, co. Durham, who had been drinking at Hetton, and was rather tipsy, on his road home, feeling somewhat sick, as he says, in passing the house of a person who had just returned from a shooting excursion, and was up taking his supper, he leaned his arm against the window shutters, which occasioned the owner to come out with his gun in his hand, thinking something wrong was about to be done. On observing a man, he seized him and demanded his name, which not being given, he threatened to shoot Story, who got away, and was proceeding home, when he was shot, and severely wounded in the thigh. The wounded man's cries being heard by some men belonging to the Hetton colliery, they went to the spot, and carried him to a house near, and afterwards to his own home. It appearing from Story's character there was no reason to believe he had intended doing any injury, a meeting was held on Monday morning between his friends and the individual who had wounded him, when the latter agreed to pay Story seven shillings and sixpence per week so long as he should be unable to attend his work, and also to pay the doctor's bill.—*Ibid.*

August.—This was the most successful herring season on the coast of Northumberland ever remembered, and was the means of employing a great many industrious fishermen and their families, in the process of curing; they were cried in the streets of Alnwick at six a penny.—*Ibid.*

September.—During the first week of this month, a little boy about 13 years old, son of Mr. T. Ironsides, farmer, at Kibblesworth, observed a flight of pigeons alight upon the roof of his father's barn, when he immediately ran into the house and procured a gun, and,

strange to say, killed the whole of them at one shot, seventeen in number; the barn is two stories high.—*Local Papers.*

1834 (Sep. 8).—Monday, being the anniversary of the coronation of their most gracious majesties, king William and queen Adelaide, the bells of the several churches in Newcastle, rang many merry peals, cannon were fired from the castle, and other demonstrations of joy manifested.—*Ibid.*



IN THE CASTLE, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE (1814).

Same day, two gentlemen from Durham, James and Culbert Kirby, brothers, attended the Falkirk Tryst, and purchased a number of sheep, which were sent forward, on the road to England, to Shieldhill, a village about two miles to the south of Falkirk, in charge of Culbert Kirby and a drover. The drove was put into a field, and the heavy rain added gloom to the whole of the day. Mr. Kirby after supper went out, but not returning, his absence began to create uneasiness, and about ten o'clock, a man went in search of him. Every exertion to discover a trace of Mr. Kirby proved fruitless, when it was suspected he had fallen down an old coal-pit, which had been allowed to stand open, without so much as a fence around the mouth of it in the south-east corner of the above field, and only about eighteen feet from the public road! This culpable negligence (to give it no harsher epithet) was the cause of death in this instance. Some of the workmen at Carron lent their assistance,

and soon had a windlass, &c., on the spot. As a precautionary measure against gas, which was likely to have accumulated at the bottom of the mine, a collier's lamp was let down, and an intrepid individual, William Henderson, then descended with considerable difficulty to the full depth of 120 feet, and found the corpse of the unfortunate man. A dreadful wound presented itself on the left temple, which quite drove in the skull; the left shoulder was likewise broken, and one of the thighs much injured. It is singular that the poor man's watch was stopped at twenty minutes after nine o'clock, when, no doubt, he had been precipitated down this dreadful abyss.—*Stirling Journal*.

1834 (Sep. 10).—This was the day fixed for the ceremony of opening the entire line of the Stanhope and Tyne railroad, and in consequence, from an early hour in the morning, much interest was excited in the neighbourhood of the company's works at South Shields. The state of the weather was unfavourable for the exhibition, but the sight was, notwithstanding, highly gratifying. The waggons were brought down the railway, a distance of eighteen miles, from Medomsley colliery, the property of the proprietors of the railway, and were lowered by a drop projecting from the company's quay at South Shields into the hold of the first vessel loaded from the Stanhope and Tyne railway (the Sally, of South Shields). At five o'clock, upwards of one hundred and twenty persons sat down to dinner, at the Golden Lion inn, Robert Ingham, esq., M.P. for the borough, in the chair. The company seemed to be animated with the spirit of mutual good-will, and spent the evening in great harmony, and in cheerful anticipations of the beneficial effects which must be produced on the trade of the Tyne by means of this railway and others communicating with it—connecting the coal district of the county of Durham with the best harbour for the shipment of its produce. The course of the Stanhope and Tyne railway is 32 miles in length; the capital expended upon it was estimated at £200,000.; and the whole was effected by agreement with the landholders, and without the aid of parliament.—*Local Papers*.

September 12.—As Samuel Walker, senr., of Alston, was engaged in making repairs on the low or water level of Thorngill East-end lead mine, in Alston moor, a portion of the roof fell on him and partially entombed him. On recovering his recollection he perceived that a stream of water was running over his shoulders and would soon have drowned him. By a despairing effort he released his head and other parts of his body. On endeavouring to extricate his leg and foot he found the bone was broken in two places, notwithstanding which he succeeded in crawling out of the level a distance of

200 fathoms, and despite of the obstacles offered by a large stream of water. The compound fracture was re-set, and the sufferer recovered.—*Local Papers.*

1834 (Sep. 15).—Monday, about ten o'clock on the forenoon, a fire broke out in the retort house of the gas works at Sunderland, which being instantly observed, the water pipe of the works was put in play, and in a few minutes the water engines were also in active operation, by which timely exertions it was speedily extinguished, before it had destroyed more than the roof of that part of the premises, and done some other damage of minor importance. The flame caught hold of one of the workmen, named Peter Wilkinson, who was severely scorched. Fortunately no other person was injured. The fire was occasioned by a crack in one of the pipes in an elevated situation, through which ran coal tar, part of which dropping in front of a furnace, it ignited.—*Ibid.*

During the afternoon of this day, (Monday) the river Tyne displayed one of the most animating spectacles that had ever probably been witnessed upon its waters. The occasion was the holding of a regatta, for the first time in this neighbourhood; and about mid-day crowds of well-dressed people were proceeding to the place appointed for the races, a number of equestrians, and carriages filled for the most part with fashionably-attired females, adding considerably to the lively bustle of the scene. The sun was unclouded throughout the whole day; and when, about two o'clock, the greater body of the company had assembled, every spot from which a view of the boats could be obtained was crowded with spectators, and presented a spectacle of a peculiarly striking character. The regatta was appointed to take place at 12 o'clock, and shortly after that hour the stewards,—namely, the right worshipful the mayor, (Henry Bell, esq.,) J. T. Carr, esq., deputy master of the Trinity house, and W. A. Surtees, esq., arrived in a boat belonging to the Tyne Amateur Club, at the stern of which was exhibited a blue silk flag, bearing the arms of the town, surmounted by the words "Tyne Regatta." The barges of the Mayor and Trinity house, a private barge, several steamers with their decks thronged with passengers, the gigs which were intended to compete for the prizes, and a large number of other boats, followed; and the river at the head of the King's meadows soon became studded with the busy craft. Two bands of music were on the water, and added not a little to the pleasure of the company, which altogether must have comprised several thousand individuals. The Newcastle steam boat, moored off the head of the meadows, was the starting place, from whence the competing boats pulled up the river, went round a boat placed for that purpose at a given distance,

and returned to the spot from whence they set out. The first race commenced at a quarter past two o'clock in the afternoon : the whole were well contested, and the distribution of the prizes afforded very general satisfaction. Among others a match, for six sovereigns, viz. : , four for the first boat, and two for the second, given by the Master and Brethren of the Trinity house, was rowed for between the North and South Shields life-boats, which was won in capital style by the latter, the appearance of these boats, and the swan-like stillness and majesty with which they occasionally floated on the river, attracted much attention and admiration. The sports of the day concluded, without, the occurrence of a single serious accident to mar the agreeableness of the proceedings.—*Local Papers.*

1834 (Sep. 17).—Wednesday afternoon one of the very large steam boilers of the steam engine at the Elemore pit, Hetton colliery, Durham, by some unexplained circumstance or other, was shifted from its place by the force of the steam, and thrown a distance of forty yards, it burst in its flight and rolled ten yards further. One man of the name of George Bell, living at Hetton houses, was killed upon the spot. Peter Thornton, Four lane ends, and William Smith, Easington lane, were very severely scalded. Another man named John Potts, was thrown a very great distance against a dung-hill, and with such force that he was completely engulfed in it, and could not be disentangled without being dug round, to loosen the ashes with which he was surrounded. He was dreadfully injured. Verdict on Bell—"Accidental death."—*Ibid.*

September 18.—The new church at South Shields was consecrated by the bishop of Chester, after which an appropriate sermon was preached by the venerable bishop.—*Ibid.*

September 23.—Tuesday, a fire broke out in a house at Chester-le-street, belonging to captain Hill. It originated by an old woman who had been thrashing out gleanings, leaving the house with the straw laying near to the fire, which caught hold. It was got under before any serious damage was done.—*Ibid.*

September 23.—Tuesday, the foundation stone of a new church was laid at North Shields, on which occasion it was expected that his grace the duke of Northumberland would have honoured the ceremony with his presence ; but on account of indisposition, his grace was unavoidably prevented from attending on the interesting occasion. The absence of the duke of Northumberland was, however, in a measure compensated for by the presence of his grace's brother, lord Prudhoe, to perform the ceremony of laying the stone. Preparations were made by the churchwardens and other gentlemen of the town, to receive his lordship with becoming honour ; and in the course of the

forenoon, a numerous and respectable body of gentlemen assembled at Chirton to meet the noble lord. A number of flags were displayed on the occasion, and at the entrance into Chirton a grand triumphal arch, decked with laurels, evergreens, and flowers, was erected. A numerous body of the Percy tenantry proceeded on horseback on the road, as far as the "Fir Trees," the boundary of the manor, to meet his lordship, and from thence conduct him to Chirton. About half-past one o'clock, his lordship's approach was announced by the firing of a signal gun, and immediately afterwards the gentlemen formed into line. On the arrival of lord Prudhoe he was enthusiastically cheered by the populace, and was received by the gentlemen in waiting: among whom were, Matthew Bell, esq., M. P., Robert Ingham, esq., M. P., Col. Reed, the vicar of Tynemouth, the vicar of Newburn, the revs. Wm. Dodd, and E. Hopper, of Newcastle, and other clergymen, the churchwardens, the building committee, and various other distinguished persons. His lordship having alighted from his carriage, the procession advanced on foot with flags and banners in the following order:—Captain of police—Bailiff of the manor—Returning officer and high constable—Magistrates—Architect—Churchwardens, vestry clerk, and church building committee, with staves of office, wands, inscribed silver plate, and coins inlaid in a silver crescent, to be deposited in the foundation stone—Beadle—Clergy—Constables with staves—Lord Prudhoe, in company with several gentlemen—Guard of honour from Tynemouth garrison—Members of the Seaman's Loyal Standard association, with their flags—and his grace the duke of Northumberland's tenantry. As the procession moved along it was witnessed by a great concourse of spectators, who lined the road on both sides. On arriving at the site of the intended church, his lordship was again loudly cheered; and a platform, erected for the accommodation of those who wished to be present at the ceremony, was filled by a numerous company of elegantly-dressed ladies. The line was kept by the military; and a band stationed on the ground enlivened the scene by playing select pieces of music. His lordship, on approaching the spot where the stone was to be laid, was congratulated on the occasion by John Fenwick, esq., who requested his lordship to lay the first stone of the building. Mr. Marshall and Mr. Laing, jun., then presented his lordship with the inscribed piece of silver plate, and the various coins current in the present reign inlaid in a silver crescent, the former gentleman reading the inscription to his lordship, of which the following is a copy:—"The foundation stone of a new church, in the parish of Tynemouth, was laid on the 23d day of September, 1834, under the auspices of the Most Noble Hugh, Duke and Earl of Northumberland, Earl and Baron Percy, Baron Lucy, Poy-

ning, Fitzpaine, Brian, Latimer, and Warkworth; and Baronet, Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of the county of Northumberland, and of the town and county of the town of Newcastle upon Tyne, Vice-Admiral of the same and the maritime ports thereof; Knight of the order of the Garter; one of his Majesty's most Hon. Privy Council, L.L.D., F.R.S., &c., &c., &c., by the most Hon. Alergnon, Lord Prudhoe, (his brother,) a Peer of the realm, and Captain of the Royal Navy. Rev. Christopher Reed, M.A., Vicar; Rev. Wm. Mark, B.A., Lecturer. Churchwardens.—George Marshall, Nich. Fenwick, Michael Robson, Joseph Laing, jun., John Tinley, vestry clerk. John Green, architect." On the reverse side of the plate, his grace's arms were engraved in full, with the coronet on the right and the crescent on the left side, and the arms of the borough of Tyne-mouth below. Mr. Benj. Green, architect, in presenting the silver trowel, apologized to his lordship for the absence of his father, who, he said, was indisposed; his lordship at the same time, expressing his sorrow at his not being able to be present on the occasion. Mr. M. Robson, Mr. Tinley, and Mr. Laing, sen., severally presented the mallet, level, and plumb. Mr. Rippon then submitted the plans of the building to his lordship, the whole of which he carefully examined, and expressed his satisfaction and approbation of the church. After these ceremonies had been gone through, the rev. the vicar of Tyne-mouth delivered an appropriate address, at the conclusion of which the procession proceeded to the vicarage, where his lordship and the other gentlemen partook of an elegant cold collation. About seventy gentlemen sat down to dinner on the occasion at the Northumberland arms, John Fenwick, esq., of Preston villa, in the chair.—*Local Papers*.

1834 (Sep. 24).—A shark eight feet in length, was caught in the salmon nets on the shore below the Magdalen fields, near Berwick. It was about three years of age; and when caught, it was found that a crab, or as some call them, a parten, had made free with one of its eyes, which it had dragged out, and was found with its claws fastened in the orifice.—*Ibid*.

September.—This month, an order in council declaring the port of Newcastle upon Tyne, to be a fit and proper port for the importation of goods from places within the limits of the East India Company's charter, was duly announced in the London Gazette.—*Ibid*.

October 3.—Died, at his house in Ridley place, Newcastle, Thomas Thompson, esq., organist of St. Nicholas' church, aged 57. To the most honourable and upright feelings, he added great sauvity of manners, while the gentleness of his disposition, and a constant willingness to oblige, rendered him a favourite companion, and a

sincere and intelligent friend. As a teacher of music he was eminently successful. His compositions for the piano-forte, and his execution on that instrument, evinced how deeply he had studied, and how much he had benefitted by the excellent musical education he had received. His early taste for music was assiduously promoted by his father, who placed him under Clementi, and other masters of great eminence. Mr. Thompson played the organ at All Saints' church when 15 years of age, and had, for nearly forty years, been organist of St. Nicholas'. The voluntaries of his own composition breathed the very soul of music, and spoke a language almost divine. The excellent choir in that church owed much to Mr. Thompson's able and unremitting exertions; and the members of the choir evinced their sense of Mr. Thompson's services, and their regard for his character by presenting him with a piece of plate. On Tuesday forenoon, October 7th, the remains of Mr. Thompson were interred in the south side of the cemetery of St. John's church.—*Local Papers*.

1834 (Oct. 4).—The Newcastle Press (a newspaper), was discontinued after an existence of 15 months.—*Ibid*.

Same day, a bricklayer's labourer, named Bowser, who had lighted his pipe at the fire of a locomotive engine which was passing along the Stockton and Darlington Railway, near Houghton, while attempting to get off at the time another engine was passing along the other line of way, had one of his legs nearly severed from his body. The unfortunate man was immediately removed to Darlington, where two surgeons were called in, but he expired before any remedy could be attempted.—*Ibid*.

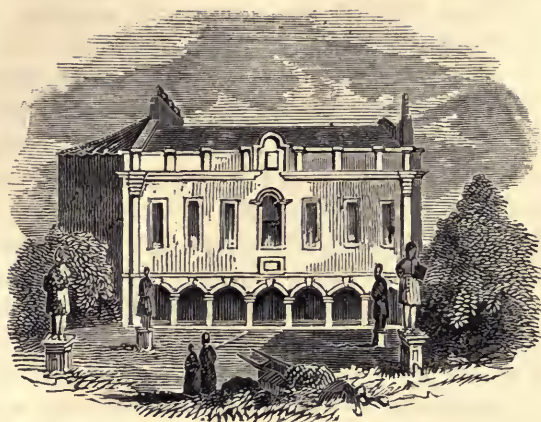
A serious accident happened this day, at Springwell colliery, near Eighton Banks, the property of lord Ravensworth and partners, by the falling of a heavy piece of timber down the pit, which alighted upon a scaffold, or "cradle," on which were standing, in the act of repairing the shaft, William Puncheon, brakesman, and John Smith wasteman, the weight of which precipitated them to the bottom, a depth of thirty fathoms, and dreadful to relate, they were both killed upon the spot. No blame attached to any person. The sufferers were steady men, and much respected by their employers. Puncheon left a widow and six children to lament his untimely end. Verdict—accidental death. Deodand, 5s.—*Ibid*.

October 6.—That beautiful phenomenon the aurora borealis, was observed from Newcastle and neighbourhood in the evening between 8 and 9 o'clock, occupying a considerable portion of the northern hemisphere.—*Ibid*.

October 10.—Friday morning the neighbourhood of Jesmond vale, near Newcastle, was thrown into the greatest consternation by the

explosion of the steam boiler connected with the engine of Mr. Rennoldson's flour mill, situated on the Ouse burn. A workman, named John Montague, had the charge of the engine, and had been in that capacity upwards of eight years. On the morning in question, he came as usual to his employment, about six o'clock, and proceeded to put the fire in order, and set the machinery in motion, two lads having previously forwarded the work for him, supposing that a sufficiency of water had been supplied to the boiler on the preceding night. On his arrival, however, they quitted the engine-house, and proceeded to the mill adjoining. In less than five minutes afterwards a most terrific explosion took place, the roof and walls of the building having been carried away many yards. The unfortunate engineman was killed on the spot; and such was the force of the explosion, that the greater portion of the boiler was thrown at least fifty yards from the building. The boys escaped unhurt. The remains of the unfortunate man were removed to a contiguous situation, and at two o'clock an inquest was held on the body, at the Blue Bell, Jesmond vale, before Stephen Reed, esq., coroner, when Mr. Rennoldson and two other witnesses employed on the premises were examined and after minute enquiry, a verdict to the following effect was returned:—"that the deceased met his death by the bursting of a steam-boiler, but that due attention had not been paid by him to supply the same with water." The engine was a high pressure engine, thirty feet in length, and extremely strong in its manufacture.—*Local Papers.*

1834 (Oct).—This month, the first course of lectures delivered in the Newcastle upon Tyne School of Medicine and Surgery commenced. The establishment of provincial medical schools became essential when the system of medical apprenticeship was retained in such an age of improvement as the present. The absurdity of confining a young man for several years to the work of a shopman as a means of qualifying him for a liberal profession, would not fail to be perceived; and Newcastle offers many facilities for the support of a medical school. Accordingly in the year 1833, Drs. Fife and Knott, and Mr. Frazer conceived the project of establishing a medical school in that town: they communicated on the subject with Messrs. John Fife, H. G. Potter and D. McAllum, who joined them in the first course, delivered in Bell's court auction room, in the ensuing winter. After this the hall of the Barber surgeons was rented of that company, and fitted up for the purpose of a school. A dissecting room and laboratory, and a lecture room were formed on the ground floor, and the hall of meeting was converted into an anatomical museum. The corporation gave £100, £50 were received from the duke of Northumberland, and £20



HALL OF THE BARBER CHIRURGEONS (1830).

from sir M. W. Ridley towards the formation of an anatomical museum. The school was recognised as qualified to teach the respective branches of medical education by the college of surgeons and apothecaries company, two years after its formation; and more recently by the London university. Indeed so far as qualification is concerned, this institution stands precisely on a par with the principal English medical schools. The museum of anatomy, comparative anatomy, and pathology will be found well worthy of a visit by those who have overcome the terrors of our grandmothers for skeletons; and contains indeed a valuable and curious collection. This museum is indeed a wonderful trophy of the professional spirit and perseverance of the medical lecturers who have contributed the whole of the fees received from the pupils to this purpose. The museum has been formed in the first place under the superintendence of Mr. Common, and more recently under that of Dr. Embleton. The pathological preparations have, many of them, been contributed by medical men unconnected with the school.* In general about 30 pupils attend the various courses. The present lecturers are in the order of seniority, —Mr. Potter (operative surgery),—Mr. W. Dawson (Midwifery),—Dr. Elliot (Materia Medica),—Dr. Glover (Medical Jurisprudence),—Dr. Embleton (Anatomy),—Dr. Charlton (Practice of Physic),—Dr. Nicholson (Anatomy and Medical Jurisprudence),—Mr. Rayne (Operative Surgery), and Messrs. Shield and Barkas, demonstrators. The chairs of Surgery and Chemistry are at present (1844) vacant by

* An attempt has also been made by Dr. Glover to form a collection of specimens of chemical manufactures, connected with the town and neighbourhood.

the resignation of sir J. Fife, and Dr. Glover. There are also three non-medical lecturers:—Mr. Thornhill on Botany, Mr. Snape on Mathematics, and Mr. King on Geology.—*MS. Col.*

1834 (Oct. 8).—A meeting was held at Sunderland, W. R. Clanny, esq., M. D. in the chair, when “The Sunderland Literary and Philosophical Society” was established.—*Mackenzie & Ross’ Dur.*

October 10.—The Newcastle and Northumberland Yeomanry Cavalry were reviewed on the Town moor by major White, of the 7th Hussars who, after putting the troops through a great variety of evolutions, formed them into a hollow square, where he addressed colonel Bell at considerable length, and spoke in very high terms of the discipline and soldier like appearance of the regiment. On the following morning the dismounted troops of the Northumberland and Newcastle volunteers, accompanied by their band, went down in a steam boat to the Long Sands, Cullercoats, to fire for the gold and silver medals given by lieutenant-colonel Bell, M. P. The gold medal was won by Mr. John Metcalfe, private; the silver medal by serjeant Bulloch, after which the troops returned by land to Newcastle.—*Local Papers.*

October 16.—At Nogley House, near Framlington, as Mr. R. Young was burning a quantity of rubbish, some of the sparks unfortunately got on the roof of the house, and in a short time it was burnt to the ground. The wind was blowing remarkably fresh at the time, which doubtless hastened the conflagration.—*Ibid.*

October 31.—Friday, the pitmen and other workmen employed in Gordon colliery, on the Tees, to the number of two hundred, were regaled by the owners with a dinner of roast beef, plum pudding, ale, &c., in commemoration of their having recently won an extensive field of six feet seam coal, of superior quality, at the depth of thirty-three fathoms.—*Ibid.*

October 31.—Died, at his house, in Percy-street, Newcastle, in the 60th year of his age, Mr. John Bruce. For upwards of forty years he filled the arduous situation of a teacher of youth, first in Alnwick, his native place, and then in Newcastle, without a week’s respite from labour, except at the usual vacations, with the most distinguished ability and success; and at the close of his career, he had, in conjunction with his son, the rev. J. C. Bruce, the direction of one of the most extensive and flourishing seminaries in the north of England. The deceased possessed an enlarged and cultivated understanding, and had the comparatively rare faculty of communicating every variety of learning to every variety of intellect, in a manner which at once secured the respect and affection of the pupil; and so eminently successful has he been as a public instructor, that a considerable portion of those persons who are now filling influential and important situa-

tions in this district of the country, have been his pupils, and acknowledge with gratitude their obligations to their departed preceptor. To Mr. Bruce the public are indebted for one of the most popular works in the language on Geography and Astronomy. He is also known as the author of an Historical and Biographical Atlas, and as the friend and biographer of the celebrated Dr. Hutton. But the character of Mr. Bruce must not be contemplated in a bare professional point of view. In him was verified the declaration of the royal preacher, "Through desire a man having separated himself, seeketh and intermeddleth with all wisdom." And in him the various religious, benevolent, and literary institutions of the age found a valuable friend and an efficient supporter. It is superfluous to specify particulars in this connection, for the deceased spread his influence over a considerable portion of the field of benevolence and intellect, and there are few institutions in this neighbourhood connected with the temporal or eternal interests of mankind, which did not rank Mr. Bruce among their supporters and warmest friends. His remains were interred at the Westgate hill cemetery on the 5th of November, and, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, the ceremony assumed the appearance of a public funeral. Several dissenting and Wesleyan ministers of the town—one of the latter of whom was one of his first pupils before his residence in Newcastle—the kirk session of the Clavering place chapel, the committee and several members of the Bible Society (of which he was one of the secretaries), persons connected with the Missionary and Literary and Philosophical Societies, together with a number of gentlemen who had been pupils of the deceased, joined the procession, and evinced their respect to the memory of a man who, while living, they esteemed, and whose death they deplored as a general loss to society.—*Local Papers.*

1834 (Oct. 31).—About ten o'clock at night, James Fairly, an Irish labourer, who resided in the Mill entry, at the head of the Side, Newcastle, was found apparently lifeless, lying against a wall near Walker, Parker, and Co.'s shot factory at Low Elswick, with severe wounds on his face and head. He was taken to the Infirmary and was then dead. An inquest was held on the body by George W. Cram, esq., coroner. From the evidence of the deceased's wife it appeared that she was employed at the Shot Factory, and had been attending an annual supper given to the work people of that establishment, when her husband came for her, and he, a man of the name of Thomas Martin, an Irish labourer employed at the Factory, who resides in Pipewellgate, Gateshead, and herself, came away together between nine and ten o'clock—that her husband found great fault

with her for staying so late, and threatened to strike her, but that Martin said he had better let her alone till he reached his own house and then he might do as he liked—that she left them talking together and went on—that after remaining half an hour at home, she went in search of her husband and heard that a man had been carried to the Infirmary, who turned out to be James Fairly. The jury returned a verdict of manslaughter against Thomas Martin; the coroner immediately issued a warrant for his apprehension, but he had absconded. The magistrates offered a reward of 20 guineas for his apprehension.—*Local Papers*.

1834 (Oct.)—This month, the new line of road leading from Belsay fir-plantation to Otterburn, was opened to the public. This desirable undertaking greatly lessens the distance between Newcastle and Edinburgh, being now only 98 miles. It will also be the levellest line, as the alterations now completed, cut off the heavy banks near Elsdon, Otterburn, &c.—*Ibid*.

This year, a gold medal, with a suitable inscription, was transmitted by the French government, accompanied with a highly complimentary letter from the minister of marine, to lieutenant Saunders, R.N., of Alnwick, (late in command of the coast guard at Newton) for his meritorious exertions, with the men under his command, in saving several French vessels and their crews, off the coast of Newton, in the tremendous gales in the latter end of August and 1st September of the preceding year.—*Ibid*.

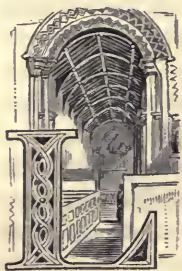
November 5.—Wednesday evening, the Tyne rose to an unusual height in consequence of heavy rains in the west. The whole of the flats about Dunstan and Derwenthaugh were completely flooded, but no material damage was done.—*Ibid*.

November 10.—Monday, Mr. Green ascended with his balloon from Tyne street, North Shields, at three o'clock. It was announced that Mr. Brown from Sunderland, would accompany him; but in consequence of a deficiency of gas, Mr. G. durst not attach his car to the balloon, and being determined to ascend, though dissuaded from it, he went up astride a rope in a beautiful and majestic manner, and in about four minutes alighted in the river near Howdon, from which situation he was rescued by some scullermen, and landed at Howdon.—*Ibid*.

November 11.—An inquest was held at Ebchester, on the body of Isabella Browell. From the evidence adduced, it appeared that on the day preceding, William Ward, parish clerk, an old man nearly eighty years of age, was in his dwelling house at Ebchester, trying a gun, not knowing it was loaded, when he discharged it, and the contents lodged in the body of the deceased, his grand-daughter,

and instantly killed her. Verdict—accidental death.—*Local Papers.*

1834 (Nov.)—This month, the following extraordinary circumstance took place on Williamson Fell, the western extremity of Northumberland:—Mr J. Gill, whilst sporting over the manor of his father, Harry Gill, Esq., of Williamson, Knaresdale, sat down to rest, when his attention was arrested by a moor-cock falling dead at his feet. On looking up, he observed an immense eagle hovering near, at which he immediately fired, and winged it. The monarch of the air, on being approached, and being unable to effect its escape by flight, gave battle, and was only captured after a hard struggle. The young gentleman, having overcome his antagonist, took him by the neck, threw him over his shoulder, and carried him to his father's residence. It was discovered, on examining the moor-cock, that the eagle had struck its head off with his talons, whilst hovering in the air.—*Ibid.*



LECTURES were commenced at St. Andrew's church, Newcastle, on the evening of Sunday, November 16th, 1834, by the rev. William Dodd, the incumbent, assisted by the rev. Thomas Ilderton, his curate. The sittings are free to the public at nights during the lectures.—*Ibid.*

November 18.—The foundation stone of the new chapel at Stockton, was laid by Charles Thorpe, B. D., the venerable the archdeacon of Durham, accompanied and assisted by the mayor and corporation of Stockton, the magistrates, the incumbent clergy, and the committee appointed for superintending the building. The procession moved from the Town hall at a quarter past eleven o'clock to the parish church, where divine service was performed; after which it proceeded to the new building, where the ceremony took place. The weather was remarkably favourable, and there was a vast concourse of spectators assembled on the occasion. After the ceremony was ended, the procession returned to the town-hall, where a cold collation was provided by the corporation, consisting of every delicacy the season could afford.—*Ibid.*

November 23.—Died, at his father's house, in Albion place, Newcastle, after a protracted illness, in his 20th year, John Trotter, eldest son of John Trotter Brockett, esq. In him was found intellectual acquirements of the highest order, and to an intimate acquaintance with the fine arts, in the cultivation and relish of which, for his years, he had few superiors, was united an extensive knowledge of northern literature, and of antiquarian subjects in general.—*Ibid.*

November 24.—The beadle of St. Nicholas' church, Newcastle, hav-

ing been apprised that a corpse (at any rate a coffin) would be sent by the Ardineapple, for interment; accordingly, on the above day, a box, directed "A Passenger," was taken to his house, containing a splendid coffin which was interred at 9 o'clock next morning, in the most private manner, and without the tolling of any bell. The entry made in the register is "Helen Tatlock, Aberdeen." The only reason given for all this, was, that the woman had requested not to be buried in Scotland.—*Local Papers.*

1834 (Nov. 24.)—An explosion of hydrogen gas took place at St. Lawrence colliery, near Newcastle, which deprived of life three industrious individuals. It appears that about six o'clock that night, Thomas Hedley, a master mason, living at Heaton, Robert Watson (his cousin), also a mason at Bigge's main, and John Gray, of Byker bar, a shifter belonging the colliery, descended the mine for the purpose of putting up two brick stoppings to close part of the workings of the pit. About ten o'clock the explosion took place, and immediately afterwards the bodies of all the three were found in a dreadfully mangled state. It is supposed that they had nearly finished their work, and Hedley had taken a candle to examine the same, and having reached too far over with it, occasioned the explosion. In confirmation of this, it is known that Hedley was in the habit of using his left hand, and his left arm and hand were most dreadfully scorched. Hedley left eight children, and a wife far advanced in pregnancy, Watson a wife and three children, and Gray a wife and five children.—*Ibid.*

Same day, Thomas Martin, William Witty, John Berriek, and a boy named John Howe, were killed at Hartley colliery, by the breaking of the rope in descending the shaft. Verdict—accidental death. Deodand on the rope, 1s. No blame attached to any person connected with the colliery. The unfortunate men were much respected by their employers. They left three widows and ten children to lament their untimely fate.—*Ibid.*

December 1.—Monday evening, the Duke of Wellington steamboat was proceeding from Newcastle to Shields, having eighteen passengers on board, with a strong ebb tide running, and the wind blowing fresh: when within a quarter of a mile of Whitley point a schooner was seen to drop her anchor in the middle of the channel, and the steersman of the steam boat, instead of attempting to go to the south of the schooner, or laying too until the passage was cleared, altered his course to the north, and attempted to run between the ships lying moored to the shore, although he was well aware that he would have to cross their ropes. The night was dark, and they were going with such velocity, that a ship's warp, which was moored

to the geers of Hotspur staith, was not discovered until they were close upon it. Mr. George Tuck, a master of a ship, was luckily standing near the bows, and instantly cried out to the passengers to lie down for the rope to pass over them, which they had scarcely got done when the boat struck the warp with great violence, which caused it to fly upwards, and the boat having great way, was forced under the warp, which tore every thing that came in contact with it. The chimney, engine-house, winch, and the rails, were all swept off. One unfortunate person, of the name of John Charlton, had either not understood the danger, or not attended to the order to lie down, but was sitting on the seat, when he received such a blow on the cheek, as they passed under the rope, as to cause his instant death. Two females were also much injured, and the steersman was thrown with great violence under the tiller. To the exertions of Mr. Tuck, and also Mr. H. R. Roddam, in restoring order among the passengers, who were nearly frantic with fright, was to be ascribed the limited extent of the loss.—*Local Papers.*

1834 (Dec. 6).—During the night of this day, (Saturday), two thieves secreted themselves in the cellar of Mrs. Lamb, Garrick's head, Cloth-market, Newcastle, where they were locked in; and not having been able to force their way out were discovered the following morning and taken into custody. They had regaled themselves very plentifully with ale, and whether from wantonness, or from the overpowering effects of the intoxicating beverage, allowed the contents of a cask to waste on the cellar floor. They had also concealed on their persons a quantity of tobacco which had been deposited in the cellar.—*Ibid.*

December 23.—In the evening, a special general meeting of the Natural History Society of Newcastle, Northumberland and Durham, was held in the Antiquarian Society's room in the new building, the right hon. lord Prudhoe in the chair (his grace the duke of Northumberland having been prevented from attending in consequence of indisposition), when a report of the state of the funds for the erection of the building was read, and a number of resolutions were agreed to, on the motion of sir M. W. Ridley, bart., M. P., M. Bell, esq., M. P., C. Ellison, esq., C. W. Bigge, esq., Rev. R. H. Brandling, C. J. Bigge, esq., &c. A portion of an interesting paper, by John Buddle, esq., was then read, containing a proposal and detail plan for making the society a place of deposit for mining records. Mr. B. pointed out the many advantages which would arise from the formation of such a collection, and gave a specimen of the description of records which he thought would be most useful, comprising a detail of the leading particulars connected with the working of Wallsend colliery from its commence-

ment to the present time. The essay seemed to give great satisfaction to the meeting, and will in all probability lead to a new era in connection with mining operations.—A public meeting was held at the Assembly-rooms to celebrate the opening of the new building in the evening, when upwards of one hundred gentlemen sat down, the mayor of Newcastle (J. L. Hood, esq.) in the chair.—*Local Papers*.

1834 (December 30).—The family of Mr. Robert Jackson, of New Elvet, Durham, were fortunately preserved from impending destruction by the barking and howling of a favourite dog. This trusty animal observing two clothes horses on fire after the family had retired to rest, sagaciously gave the alarm.—*Ibid*.

The Methodist new connexion chapel Gateshead, founded. The register of births and baptisms, extending from 1834 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

The new Roman Catholic Chapel, in Bridge street, Bishopwearmouth, was commenced building this year.—*Local Papers*.

August 5.*—Died, at Hartlepool, Durham, Edward Dixon, esq., aged 24. He was the fourth son of Samuel Dixon, esq., of Grassington, Yorkshire, and nephew of the late R. H. Mc Donald, esq., of Durham. Mr. Dixon's family (Dixon of Beeston) is one of considerable antiquity, having been located at Beeston in Yorkshire for several centuries, and being also the representative of the very ancient line of the De Beistons; the last of whom, Dorothy de Beiston, who died in 1635, married his ancestor Ralph Dixon, esq., and from the eldest son of which marriage Mr. Dixon was descended.—*Thoresby's Ducatus Leodiensis. Local Papers, &c.*

* Omitted on page 204.



ARMS OF DIXON.

CHAPTER X.



N the general election which took place in January 1835, there were four candidates for the representation of Newcastle, viz:—sir M. W. Ridley, bart., of Blagdon; William Ord, esq., of Whitfield; John Hodgson, esq., of Elswick, and James Aytoun, esq. On Monday the 5th, John Mellor Chapman, esq., sheriff of Newcastle, opened the business of nomination. The polling commenced on the morning of Tuesday the

6th, and closed on the following day, at four o'clock. On Thursday the 8th at twelve o'clock, the sheriff declared the poll to be, for W. Ord, esq., 1844; sir M. W. Ridley, 1500; John Hodgson, esq., 1257; James Aytoun, esq., 988. On leaving the hustings, sir M. W. Ridley was most brutally assailed with missiles; while proceeding through the streets in his carriage, preceded by his band, near the Mansion-house, in the Close, an attack was made upon the band, and one of his colours was torn down. At the foot of the Side another of his colours was demolished, and a large piece of coal was thrown into his carriage. Sir Matthew then ordered the postillions to move forward, and they proceeded at a rapid pace to the Queen's head where he alighted.

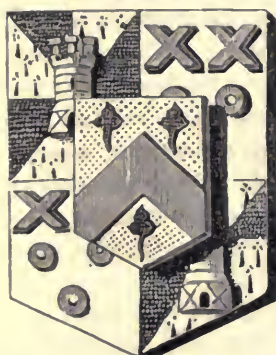
The representation of South Shields was contested by Robert Ingham, esq., and R. Bowlby, esq. At the close of the poll, the numbers were, for Mr. Ingham, 273, and for Mr. Bowlby, 128.

At Sunderland, the numbers stood at the close of the poll on the 7th:—Ald. Thompson, 844; Mr. Barclay, 709; Sir Wm. Chaytor, 389.

The Berwick election terminated as follows:—Bradshaw, 410; sir R. Donkin, 350; sir F. Blake, 337.

Durham city election began on Thursday the 8th, and the polling on Monday the 12th, and was carried on with great spirit until within half an hour of closing the poll on the second day, when the disturbance became so great, that the mayor was obliged to adjourn the poll until the following day at nine o'clock, when after being kept up half an hour, the numbers were declared by the mayor as follows:—Mr. Trevor, 473; Mr. Harland, 433; Mr. Granger, 350. The two former gentlemen were afterwards chaired in the usual form.—*Local Papers*.

1835 (Jan. 8).—Died, at his residence, Swinburne place, Newcastle, aged 37, the rev. James Taylor, incumbent of St. John's church, with Benwell. Mr. Taylor was of that class of ministers of the established church called evangelical, and the diligent and faithful manner in which he discharged his official duties, especially his attention to the sick and poor, and the labour he bestowed upon the young, created for him a high degree of respect, and occasioned his loss to be deeply lamented. During the period when the cholera visited this neighbourhood, Mr. Taylor was one of the most fearless and zealous in administering spiritual aid to its victims. Some of his last efforts to do good were the gratuitous establishment of a Tuesday evening lecture, and in originating a plan for the erection of a new school in his parish, for the education of 1000 children on the Madras system. His remains were interred in St. John's church, followed by numerous friends and nearly all the clergy of the town, the committee of the church missionary society, and the teachers of the Sunday schools.—*Ibid*.



January 13.—Died at his house, in Clavering-place, in this town, in the 81st year of his age, Robert Hopper Williamson, esq., Barrister-at-law, Temporal Chancellor of the county of Durham. Mr. Williamson, was descended from the respectable family of Hopper, of the county Palatine, and marrying the heiress of Dr. Williamson, of Whickham, he assumed her name in addition to his own. In 1704, he was elected Recorder of Newcastle upon Tyne,

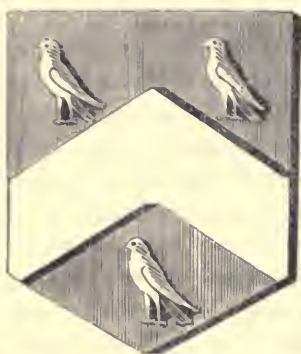
which important office he filled with the most distinguished ability until the death of Mrs. Williamson, in 1829, when he tendered his resignation. On the death of Sir Samuel Romilly, Dr. Barrington, the Bishop of Durham, appointed him Temporal Chancellor of the

county Palatine. This appointment was unsolicited on the part of Mr. Williamson, and reflected the highest credit on the Bishop, who, regardless of political sentiments, sought out a man every way fitted "truly and indifferently" to administer the justice of the country. For many years Mr. Williamson practised as a chamber counsel in Newcastle, and no man has ever had his opinion upon the great and various questions submitted to his consideration more implicitly deferred to—learned among the learned—patient and indefatigable in all his researches, his opinions had the moral force and influence of judicial decisions—an honor which has been conceded to no other juriconsult of his time, with the exception of Mr. Fearne and Mr. Bell. It is not uncommon to find lawyers eminent in one branch of legal knowledge, but Mr. Williamson was great in every department of jurisprudence. As a tenure lawyer and conveyancer he was at the head of the profession. In common law and in equity he maintained a first position. He was an accomplished special pleader and equity draftsman. And although in matters cognizable by the civil and canon law, he always expressed himself with great modesty and diffidence, yet he displayed all the characteristics of a master mind. As a magistrate and a judge he maintained the purity of the ermine and the character of the bench. His last sessions, as chancellor, will long be remembered for one of the most elaborate and splendid judgements ever delivered in the Palatinate. In private life he was kind, affectionate, amiable. His house was the abode of peace—and he was a liberal benefactor to many whose misfortunes solicited his aid. In politics, he was a whig of the old school—and he attended the polling-booth, at the recent election for Newcastle, and polled a plumper for sir Matthew White Ridley, bart., declaring that this act would, as it proved, be the last public action of his life. The energies of his mind, and the strength of his faculties, remained in full play and vigour to the last; and he passed his fourscore years and to the tomb, without being subject to any of those senilities which so generally mark the great age to which he had the happiness to attain.—On Tuesday the 20th, his remains were interred at Whickham, with great respect; the members of the corporation, gentlemen of the legal profession, &c., occupying upwards of forty carriages, having followed the hearse, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather.—*Local Papers.*

1835 (Jan. 14).—The drivers of three carts, in the neighbourhood of Longhorsley, Northumberland, agreed to run a race, and drove at a furious rate until within a short distance of Whomleyburn, when the carts came in contact with each other, and with a laden cart, which they met, when the latter and one of the former were upset, and

a man named George Taylor, of Rothbury, was killed on the spot, and his daughter, who was in the cart with him, narrowly escaped the same fate; she was dreadfully bruised and much cut.—*Local Papers*.

1835 (Jan. 16).—The town of Hexham was lighted with gas, for the first time. In celebration of the event, the directors and shareholders of the Gas works, accompanied by several of their friends, met at the Gas works, at half-past four o'clock, and marched in procession round the town, preceded by a band of music, after which they dined together at the Black Bull inn, R. Stokoe, esq., in the chair.—*Ibid*.



January 17.—Died, the rev. Anthony Hedley, of Chesterholme, M. A., aged 57. The announcement of the sudden and premature departure of this excellent man, was received with heartfelt sorrow by his numerous friends in Newcastle, throughout the north of England, and by all who came within the sphere of his usefulness, and witnessed his many public and private virtues, the loss which his family and society has sustained will be long and deeply deplored. In

successively exercising the duties of a parish priest at Gateshead, St. John Lee, Hexham, Whelpington, and Whitfield, he laboured with a sincerity, industry, and efficiency, rarely equalled. Mr. Hedley devoted much of his time to visiting and instructing the poor at their own houses. Nor did the establishment alone rejoice in his labours. "At that time," (1810) says a correspondent to the Newcastle Magazine, "the dissenters of Hexham were attracted by a voice which sounded vehemently from St. John Lee to the neighbouring parishes;" and the writer (himself a dissenter) adds, in expatiating on his merits "they forgot those minor differences which separate churchmen from dissenters." To the education of the children in the several parochial schools placed under his care, Mr. Hedley not only largely contributed by pecuniary support, but added the still greater benefit of his regular and active personal superintendence. The poor, also, had their temporal, as well as spiritual, wants supplied; and in severe winters came many miles to receive his well bestowed and liberal bounty. In the pulpit he was a clear, eloquent, and practical expounder of Divine Truth, suiting his discourses to the circumstances and capacity of his hearers; and exemplifying, by the blameless simplicity, unsullied integrity, and unwearied benevolence of his own life, the character of a faithful and apostolical servant of Jesus Christ. His character, thus

adorned with Christian graces, was also enriched by literary talents and antiquarian research, which he chiefly devoted to subjects of local interest, and furnished many valuable contributions to the *Archæologia Æliana*, to sir Walter Scott's *Antiquarian Works*, to Hodgson's elaborate *History of Northumberland*, the *Newcastle Magazine*, and other publications. His extensive library was peculiarly rich in local works, and his MS. collections, and his residence of Chesterholme, by the beauty of its antiquarian villa and romantic grounds, will remain a lasting monument of his taste. Mr. Hedley's virtues in the several relations of domestic life, as a husband, a father, and a master, can only be valued by those who cherish the happy remembrance of them. In a numerous and extensive circle of friends, he was not only respected and esteemed—he was honoured and beloved. The suavity of his manners, the liveliness of his disposition, the exhaustless stores of his cultivated and capacious mind, threw a charm over his society which drew all hearts towards him, and made him as much the welcome visitor of the great, as he was the intelligent companion of the learned, and the kind and condescending friend and adviser of the poor. Mr. Hedley was through life an able and consistent friend to liberal measures in politics, and though his merits both as a clergyman and as a man were well known in highly influential quarters, and voluntary offers of patronage made to him by the late chancellor; he pursued too plain and unostentatious a path of duty to reap the benefits which forward and aspiring minds so frequently strive for and obtain.—*Local Papers.*

1835 (Jan. 20).—A fire broke out in one of the glass-houses of sir M. W. Ridley, bart. and Co., near Newcastle, but being discovered before it had made much progress, and an engine which is kept continually on the spot, being brought into immediate effect, the fire was extinguished, fortunately without doing material injury. Scarcely, however, had an hour elapsed, when a second fire broke out in the same building, in an opposite direction; but which, also, by prompt exertion, was got under, without doing much damage. Had it happened in the night the consequences might have been serious.—*Ibid.*

January 26.—Early on the morning of this day (Monday), a daring burglary was committed at the house of Mr. Crighton, solicitor, in Eldon-place, Newcastle. Between three and four o'clock, Mr. Crighton was alarmed by hearing a noise in the lower part of his house, and having procured a light, and armed himself with a poker, he proceeded down stairs to ascertain the cause; but on reaching the passage, his light was blown out by the wind, and almost at the same instant a man rushed out of the dining-room. A scuffle then ensued between them, during which Mr. Crighton struck the thief some

severe blows with the poker, but in return received several bruises, and had the end of one of his fingers bitten off. The thief, however, unfortunately effected his escape through the back door. An alarm was instantly given, and the assistance of some of the neighbours and the watchman having been procured, a strict search was made, but no trace of the depredator could be met with. On examining the back parlour it appeared that the thief had put up some of Mr. Crighton's clothes into a bundle and had helped himself to some wine and cake : he was supposed to have entered by the window. In his hurry he left his hat, shoes, and apron behind him.—*Local Papers*.

1835 (Jan. 28.)—The town of Houghton-le-Spring, was lighted with gas for the first time.—*Ibid*.

January 29.—Thursday, in consequence of the continued indisposition of the venerable bishop of the diocese, the lord bishop of Carlisle attended to consecrate the new portion of the burial ground of Tynemouth church, which had been enlarged, through the instrumentality and munificence of his grace the duke of Northumberland, and the contributions of the inhabitants of that place. On the entrance of his lordship into the church, the petition of the inhabitants of the parish of Tynemouth, praying his lordship to consecrate, and set apart for sepulture, the additional portion of ground, was presented by the vicar, and read by the registrar, to which his lordship graciously acceded, and replied, that he was prepared to proceed with the consecration of the same. Prayers were then read by the rev. the vicar—the 39th and 90th Psalms were substituted for those of the day of the month, together with the appropriate lessons, Gen. 23rd, and St. John's Gospel 5th chap., v. 21. incl. to v. 30.—When the service in the church was over, the bishop, clergy, and congregation repaired to the new burial ground, where, after the act or sentence of consecration was read by the vicar, in the absence of the chancellor, and signed by the bishop, and ordered to be registered. The deportment of the large and respectable congregation who attended, and who seemed to be deeply impressed with this truly apostolic and religious ceremony was truly pleasing.—*Ibid*.

January.—This month, as a drove of fat oxen were passing along the Durham new line of road, and when near the Gateshead arms public house, Low Fell, one of them a fine looking animal, supposed to be nearly seventy stone weight, very deliberately walked up to a stone wall, above seven feet high, and making a sudden spring, leaped completely over it, and without sustaining the least injury, very quietly joined some cows that were grazing in an adjoining part of the field.—*Ibid*.

February 4.—The twenty-second anniversary meeting of the

Society of Antiquaries, Newcastle, was held, being the first in their new apartment in the library of the Literary and Philosophical Society ; just previous to which, the collonade adjoining had been filled with the various Roman and other remains belonging to the Society.—*Local Papers.*

1835 (Feb. 4).—A remarkably neat Wesleyan chapel was opened at Paradise, on the Scotswood road, near Newcastle.—*Ibid.*

February 5.—Thursday, Barnardcastle was lighted with gas for the first time ; on which occasion about fifty of the shareholders dined at Mrs. Donkin's, Rose and Crown inn.—*Ibid.*

February 6.—Alston was visited by a most tremendous storm of wind and rain. The wind blew almost a hurricane from the S. W. until two in the afternoon, when a black cloud settled over the town, darkening the houses and shops so as to cause a temporary suspension of business. This was followed by vivid flashes of lightning and peals of thunder, accompanied by a heavy hail shower : the warring of the elements was awfully terrific. Several carts both loaded and unloaded were blown over in passing Bent side and Hartley Burn. No lives were lost.—*Ibid.*

February 11.—The foundation stone of the church at Seaham harbour was laid by the marchioness of Londonderry, before a large and highly respectable company assembled for the occasion.—*Ibid.*

February 12.—A letter having been received by the churchwardens of St. Nicholas, Newcastle, from George Maule, esq., solicitor to the treasury, requiring them to call a vestry meeting of the parishioners, to select three of the responsible and respectable inhabitants whose names were to be submitted with that of the incumbent, "as trustees of such bounty as his majesty might be pleased to bestow upon the poor inhabitants of the parish, in conformity with the will of the late Mr. Wm. Moulton," A meeting was held accordingly in the vestry on the above day, when Mr. Henry Ingledew, Mr. A. L. Potter, and Mr. Robert Pace, were nominated as the trustees, in question. The property is situated in the Ship entry, and was then let for about £200 a year.—*Ibid.*

February 12.—A most splendid ball and supper, given by the bachelors of Newcastle and neighbourhood, took place at the assembly rooms, at which 304 of the fashionables of the town and adjoining counties were present. Twelve years had elapsed since the last bachelor's ball.—*Ibid.*

February 13.—About ten o'clock this morning (Friday), John Mc Arthur, trunk-maker, Dean-street, Newcastle, put a period to his existence by hanging himself with his handkerchief in his lodging-room. His pecuniary embarrassment appears to have led to the

commission of this dreadful act. The deceased left a paper on his table on which the following was written :—" I have been born to a life of trials, one thing on the back of another. Would to God, that I were at rest, for my life is intolerable. Whoever may so far befriend me will write to my brother to night, 'Mc Arthur, Newhaven, Edinbro' and my good friends John Mitchell, John Patterson, and to all who have befriended me once for all farewell ! I do also will and direct that my body shall be given for public dissection at Edinbro' for the benefit of all concerned. If not allowed by my friends, I beg it shall be sent to St. Ninian's church-yard, by Stirling, to be interred by my last, my best and only friend John McArthur."—*Local Papers*.

1835 (February 14).—Saturday, the foundation stone of the New Docks on the north side of the Wear was laid by lady Williamson, in the presence of a great concourse of people. The committee and their friends afterwards dined at the Wheat Sheaf Inn, Monkwearmouth.—*Ibid*.

February 22.—On this night (Sunday) and during the whole of Monday, Newcastle and neighbourhood were visited by a most violent storm of wind accompanied on the preceding evening with a heavy fall of rain, which did considerable damage to the chimnies and roofs of a great number of houses. At the residence of Benjamin Thompson, esq., Northumberland street, a tall chimney was blown down, and broke in the roof of the kitchen, in which were two female servants, who were both severely bruised ; indeed it is a matter of astonishment how they escaped with life. Another stack of chimnies was blown over upon the roof of a house in Vine lane, which fell with such force upon the roof of an adjoining house, that it burst out the side of the upper story, in which was an aged female sitting over the fire, but she fortunately escaped unhurt, owing to the joists falling upon the gable, a little above the chimney piece. A large stack of chimnies on Mr. Armstrong's, woollen draper's premises, Mosley street, fell with a tremendous crash, and burst in nearly the whole of the roof on one side, several of the bricks falling into Mosley street. A gentleman passing had a narrow escape ; his coat was much torn by the falling rubbish, but happily he was not personally injured. Almost at the same time, a sign-board was blown down in Mosley street, which hit a poor boy, who was passing, and hurt him seriously. A stack of chimnies belonging to a house No. 3. St. John's lane, two in Scaife's court, and several others of minor importance, were more or less damaged, but no lives lost. The temporary pavilion of Mr. Purvis, better known as *Billy Purvis*, which was erected upon the Parade ground, was completely shivered to atoms, and the canvas covering carried away by the wind. In Gateshead several buildings

were injured by the falling of chimnies, particularly in High street, Hillgate, and Pipewellgate. A glue manufactory, at Friars Goose was completely blown down. The chimnies at the residence of Mr. Peacock, Wallsend, were blown down and came through the roof into the second story and would have been fatal to his children had they not just before left the room.—*Local Papers.*



E. ENTRANCE TO PIPEWELLGATE, GATESHEAD (1844).

1835 (Feb. 25).—The foundation stone of a new chapel in the Independent connexion was laid at Howden Pans, by R. Walters, esq., of Newcastle. The services were conducted by the rev. Messrs. A. Reed, A. Jack, and S. Blair. A large company dined together after the service.—*Ibid.*

February.—An eagle took up his abode in the woods at Ravensworth, and shewed no disposition to leave; it was fed on entrails, &c., placed in the woods, and was supposed to have escaped from some place of confinement.—*Ibid.*

An elegant miniature model of a first-rate ship of war, completely rigged, and carrying 130 guns, was being exhibited in the Town-hall, Alnwick, at this period. The dimensions were six feet in length over all, by two feet extreme breadth. The upper and lower cabins were completely furnished, and officers, seamen, marines, band of music, were cleverly represented on board. The decks, &c. were planked, and the model was a correct representation to the most minute particular. It had been entirely constructed by Mr. W. Hall, book-binder, of Berwick-upon-Tweed, and had occupied him several years.—*Ibid.*

March 2.—A fire commenced in one of the lodging rooms of the Queen's head Inn, Darlington, owing to a person in a state of intoxi-

cation, who was stopping in the house, leaving his candle burning, on retiring to rest, which by some means communicated with the bed clothes which were speedily in flames; several beds were consumed, and it was with some difficulty the person himself was rescued.—*Local Papers*.

1835 (March 3).—The new chapel at Heworth was consecrated by the lord bishop of St. David's.—*Ibid*.

March 7.—A serious accident occurred this day (Saturday) about 1 o'clock. Two carts, each drawn by one horse, the property of Mr. T. Heron, farmer at Duddo, were proceeding down Dean street with corn, and when about half way down the street, one of them in consequence of the belly band of the trapping breaking, rushed past the other, and ran furiously down the street, and after it had turned the corner of Dean street ran over some women standing together, and was not stopped until it came in contact with another cart, which was overturned, the horse thrown down, and some people in the cart thrown out. These latter all escaped with trifling injuries. Two of the five persons run over, were killed, the others were taken to the Infirmary.—*Ibid*.

March 9.—Monday, great interest was excited in Newcastle, and throughout the adjoining district, by the opening of the Newcastle and Carlisle railway. The morning proved uncommonly fine, and at an early hour numerous groups of persons were seen bending their steps in the direction of Blaydon, from which place the procession was announced to start at ten o'clock. Private carriages, coaches, and various other conveyances were put in requisition, to convey the railway tourists, and the new Scotswood-road presented a gay and lively scene, which had not been equalled since the opening of that useful approach to the town. A large white silk flag waved majestically over the buildings of Mr. Beaumont's refinery at Blaydon, and numerous other flags, with inscriptions of "Prosperity to the Railway," and other appropriate mottoes, gave additional interest to the scene. At Blaydon, a large concourse of persons lined the roads and fields near the railway, and a great number of the most respectable and influential inhabitants of Newcastle assembled to witness the auspicious commencement of this great undertaking. Tickets of admission had been previously given to the shareholders and their friends, for the accommodation of nearly seven hundred persons. The mode in which these arrangements were made and carried into effect reflected the greatest credit on the managers of the railway, and contributed to that order and regularity which forms so essential a point in railway conveyance. The foot-paths in various directions were distinctly marked by groups of well-dressed pedestrians; and the river

also poured forth its tribute of respect to the railway, bearing on its surface the stately barge of the corporation, with the mayor (J. L. Hood, esq.), and a numerous party of friends. The slow and venerable movements of Old Father Tyne, however, scarcely accord with the rapid movements of railway conveyance, and hence some delay was occasioned. At a quarter before eleven the first train of carriages left Blaydon, drawn by the Rapid locomotive engine, and was followed by the Comet engine, leading the second train, at six minutes before eleven. Both these engines were made in Newcastle; the former by Messrs. Stephenson and Co., and the latter by Messrs. Hawthorn. Both engines had a load of upwards of sixty tons attached, exclusive of the tenders, and the successful manner in which they performed the journey is the best proof of the skill and talent displayed in their construction. The procession proceeded towards Hexham at an average rate of from twelve to fourteen miles an hour; but the arrangements for supplying water being incomplete, some delay necessarily occurred. The ease and rapidity of the conveyance afforded the greatest pleasure to the numerous and delighted visitors, and a triumphal arch, and an immense assemblage of people, welcomed the procession at Hexham. The party of visitors who had travelled on the railway were invited to partake of a cold collation provided at the Black Bull, White Hart and Grey Bull inns in Hexham, where the well-supplied tables presented an ample feast to upwards of six hundred guests. At twenty minutes past three, the procession left Hexham, and returned to Blaydon in one uninterrupted trip of seventeen miles, in one hour and ten minutes. Throughout the whole of the line, the adjacent country poured forth its inhabitants, and nothing could exceed the interesting spectacle which the several villages and cottages presented. Bands of music; flags, the ringing of bells, the firing of cannon, and the hearty cheers of the assembled multitudes gave a joyous welcome to this first and auspicious journey on the Newcastle and Carlisle railway, and the procession safely returned to Blaydon without any material accident occurring to lessen the enjoyment of the day. But three weeks, however, had elapsed, when the prospects of the railway received a severe check: The act of Parliament under which the Newcastle and Carlisle railway had been formed, prohibited the use of locomotive engines, at a time, be it understood, when their construction was such as rendered them little better than a nuisance; but since the improvements in their manufacture these objections were wholly surmounted. In November 1834, the managers of the railway gave notice of application to Parliament for authority to use steam engines, as about seventeen miles of the road were about to be opened. All the landowners on the line gave their assent, except

Mr. C. Bacon Grey, of Styford, and on the railway being opened, and engines placed on it, he had recourse to the court of chancery, and obtained an injunction against their use. Notice to this effect was served on the railway directors on Saturday March 28, when the railway was of course laid idle. A great sensation followed. A public meeting was held on the subject on the 6th of April, in the Guildhall, Newcastle, convened by the mayor, J. L. Hood, esq., according to a requisition most numerous and respectably signed; and other demonstrations of popular feeling having been manifested, Mr. Grey eventually withdrew his opposition, and the business of the railway resumed.—*Local Papers.*

1835 (March 9).—The neighbourhood of Barnard-castle and Brough was visited by a most awful storm of wind and snow. The Lord Exmouth coach, from Newcastle to Liverpool, had the greatest difficulty in getting up to Spittle Inn, Stainmore, which it reached soon after its regular time. After waiting some time, the coachman attempted to go to Brough, but the storm was so violent he could not proceed more than three or four hundred yards, when he thought it prudent to return to Spittle Inn, and wait until Tuesday morning, and with great difficulty reached Brough in the afternoon of that day, the snow being from six to nine feet deep. The Glasgow mail from the south was overturned on the previous evening, near Brough, where the guards exchanged their bags, and returned the same route, being seven hours behind their time. All intercourse from the west country was necessarily stopped for a day or two, until the roads were cut open. The Carlisle mail did not arrive in Newcastle until eight o'clock in the evening, being 6½ hours behind the regular time.—*Ibid.*

March 11.—The owners of Haswell colliery, in the county of Durham, succeeded in winning coal at the depth of 155 fathoms. The seam is five feet six inches in thickness and of excellent quality. The workmen, numbering two hundred, were regaled with roast beef and plum pudding.—*Ibid.*

March 15.—Sunday, six adult persons received public baptism at Hamsterley church.—*Ibid.*

March.—The workmen of Mr. R. Grainger, in digging foundations in the Nuns' field, Newcastle, for his new buildings, dug up the foundations of some old buildings, and in connection with them, an ancient burial ground. Among other things a stone coffin, two lead coffins, and the decayed wood of several others were found, from three to four feet deep, most of them embedded in clay. From the number of human bones discovered, it may fairly be inferred, that it has been the regular place of burial of the Nun's of the order of St. Bartholomew, which takes a distinguished stand in the history of Newcastle.

This ground, after passing into different hands, was sold on the demise of sir Walter Blackett, its previous proprietor, to Mr. G. Anderson, in 1783. In 1834 it was bought by Mr. R. Grainger, for his new markets, &c., in digging the foundations for which the above relics were found. Several entire skulls were also found and two of the most perfect were preserved. It would seem from the size of the bones and the thinness of the skulls, that the remains of the sisterhood had been chiefly buried there.—*Local Papers.*

1835 (March).—The workmen commenced pulling down the old custom house and the houses upon the Mark quay, Sunderland, preparatory to the erection of staiths in connexion with the Sunderland and Durham railway.—*Ibid.*

About this time a patent was granted to Mr. Joseph Price, of Gateshead, flint-glass manufacturer, for his invention of certain improvements in railways, and in the means of transporting carriages from one level to another.—*Ibid.*

April 12.—Sunday night about seven o'clock, the kitchen of Mr. Atkinson's house, in Green-court, Newcastle, was discovered to be on fire. The flames soon extended to the floor of a lodging room above. Several of the neighbours, the workmen employed in Mr. Atkinson, jun's. coach manufactory, and some few other individuals, repaired promptly to the spot, and by the use of buckets with water, &c., succeeded in getting the fire extinguished in little more than an hour.—*Ibid.*

April 14.—Died, in Pilgrim-street, Newcastle, aged 100, Mary, mother of Mr. John Smith, victualler, of the High-bridge.—*Ibid.*

April 16.—Thursday night, two wheat stacks, belonging to Mr. John Morris, of Dryden-place, New York, in the township of Murton, Northumberland, were destroyed by fire, under circumstances which left no doubt of its having been the act of an incendiary.—*Ibid.*

April 20.—Monday, being the birth-day of his grace the duke of Northumberland, was celebrated as usual at Alnwick, by a public dinner of the inhabitants in the town-hall. On the same occasion, the numerous workmen employed in the erection of the new buildings in Hulne park, were treated with a substantial dinner and potent "couple ale," in plentiful supply from the castle, announcing to the surrounding neighbourhood their Jubilee, (the duke having attained his 50th year), by hoisting a large flag on Brislee tower, and another on a pole seventy feet high, on the most elevated part of Alnwick moor.—*Ibid.*

May 1.—A man named Robinson, and five boys, were unfortunately killed at three o'clock on the morning, whilst in the act of descending the pit, at Whitley colliery, in consequence of the hook

which is appended to the chain not having been properly put into the bow of the corf which the unfortunate sufferers were in, by which oversight they fell from the top to the bottom of the pit, a depth of forty five fathoms. Verdict—Accidental death, with a deodand of one shilling upon the corf.—*Local Papers.*

1835 (May).—Early in this month, three gentlemen from Durham killed in the river Coquet, near Weldon bridge, the extraordinary number of 575 trout, in four days, namely, on the first day, 129; on the second day, 104; on the third day, 156; and on the fourth 166.—*Ibid.*

May 4.—Monday, a fire broke out in the workshop of Mr. Robinson, cabinet-maker, at Lartington, near Barnardecastle, and in a short time the building, along with the dwelling-house, was burnt to the ground; also a large assortment of new furniture was consumed. The loss was estimated at between £1,000 to £2,000., no part of which was insured.—*Ibid.*

May 5.—Tuesday morning about three o'clock, a fire broke out in the kitchen of the Salutation inn, at Tynemouth, which threatened destruction to the adjoining property, but the prompt arrival of the engine from the castle, and the able assistance of captain Hughes and lieutenant Stoney, and a number of soldiers, prevented the flames from doing further damage than the complete destruction of the kitchen.—*Ibid.*

May 9.—The inhabitants of the Baptist persuasion in Broomley, Hindley, and the neighbouring hamlets, who, with their ancestors during a century and a half, had been accustomed to meet for worship in a large room, erected a small chapel, which was opened this day by the revds. Messrs. Fisher, Pengilly and Sample.—*Ibid.*

May 18.—The service connected with laying the foundation stone of the Providence Baptist chapel, Marlborough-erescient, Newcastle, was attended to on the evening of this day, (Monday), when a suitable address was delivered on the occasion by Mr. John Poynder, of Lockwood, Yorkshire.—*Ibid.*

May 22.—At a public meeting of the inhabitants of the township of Byker, Newcastle, held this day, Friday, Robert Plummer, esq., in the chair, it was resolved to establish at that village, one of those valuable institutions, for the poorer classes—a Self Supporting Dispensary. The manufacturing and working population of Byker being very numerous, some such establishment as the one just founded, being evidently wanted to enable the poor to obtain advice and medicine, when needed, at a small cost, the institution has been from the first liberally patronized and promoted by a number of gentlemen, resident in, or connected with the neighbourhood.—*Ibid.*

1835 (May 26).—The foundation stone of a large, spacious chapel for the Methodist new connexion in Gateshead, was laid by G. Beaumont, esq., of Halifax, on a site of ground given for that purpose by Cuthbert Ellison, esq.—*Local Papers*.

May 28.—Thursday being Ascension day, the right worshipful the mayor of Newcastle, J. L. Hood, esq., assisted by the corporate officers, and by a party of gentlemen, proceeded, according to ancient custom, to survey the boundaries of the river Tyne. Soon after seven in the morning, the barges proceeded from the mansion-house, and on arriving at Shields, the company landed and partook of an excellent breakfast. The regatta returned again to the mansion-house at one o'clock. The party again landed, and the mayor, accompanied by the official parties, proceeded to the Sandhill, where the dismounted troop of the Northumberland and Newcastle volunteer corps were in attendance, it being the king's birth-day. After the mayor had drunk his majesty's health, the soldiers fired a feu de joie, and were regaled with wine, the guns of the castle fired a royal salute, and the bells of the different churches rung many a merry peal. After this ceremony was over, the party again betook themselves to their aquatic procession, and were rowed to Hedwin streams, near Newburn. In returning, they landed on the King's meadows, where races and other amusements took place. The festivities of the day concluded with a grand dinner at the Mansion-house.—*Ibid*.

May 31.—Saturday, a stout, ragged, and dirty-looking man, begging in the town of Morpeth, was taken into custody, and on his person was found the following amount, £349. 1s. 7d., viz.: Bank Bill of British Linen Company, No. 4931, April 30, 1835, for £125. 5s. 8d.; Bank of Scotland, No. 10938, April 30, 1835, for £35.; Bank of Scotland, No. 10957, May 1st, 1835, for £186. 3s. 11d.; silver, £2.; copper, 12s.: his name was Robert Ferguson, a native of Berwick-upon-Tweed.—*Ibid*.

May.—This month, an act of justice was done to George Robinson, Redcar pilot, who, on the 9th of December preceding, at imminent peril, put to sea in a small boat, and succeeded in saving the lives of two boys, who had been left by the life-boat, which had rescued the rest of the crew, lashed to the rigging of the brig Mowbray, of Sunderland, which had been wrecked near the former place. A subscription having been entered into at Stockton to reward this heroic fellow for his gallant and meritorious conduct, a sufficient sum was raised to purchase a silver tankard, which was presented to him by R. Dickson, esq., in the names of the subscribers. The tankard bore an appropriate inscription.—*Ibid*.

May.—Workmen were employed in removing rubbish from the

interior of the beautiful and romantic ruin of Finchale priory, near Durham. In the nave of the abbey they discovered several tomb stones, covered with inscriptions.—*Local Papers.*



PART OF FINCHALE PRIORY (1842).

1835 (June 10).—Wednesday, Newcastle and neighbourhood were visited by a violent thunder storm, which, was attended with loss of life and considerable destruction of property. A cottage on Gateshead Low Fell, inhabited by a family of the name of Dawson, was struck by the lightning, and caused the death of Mrs. Dawson. Her husband, in his account of the accident, said that he was in the act of going to the door for water, and his wife was close behind him, when he felt suddenly a blow upon his hat, and, instantly looking round, saw her lying at his feet a breathless corpse. The electric fluid had entered by the chimney, shattering a small bed-steed to pieces; after which it struck the poor woman, and then passed through the roof of the cottage, shattering the tiles to atoms. The husband had a narrow escape, his hat being dented in, and laid flat to his head. The unfortunate woman was only 30 years of age, and far advanced in pregnancy. At Durham, the thunder and lightning were awful, accompanied with a heavy fall of rain. The spire of one of the western towers of the cathedral, was struck by the electric fluid, and about a yard of it thrown some distance into the church-yard. Four singers and a boy, who were at the time standing in the porch on the same side of the church to avoid the rain, were struck with the lightning, but none of them received any injury, although some of them were thrown down. At Shotley Bridge, the storm of hail and rain was truly alarming, pieces of ice fell near four inches in circumference,

which soon melted, and caused the Derwent to overflow, which did considerable damage, particularly to the fields near Mr. Annandale's paper-works. Houghton-le-Spring, Sunderland, and Shields, were also visited by the storm.—*Local Papers.*

1835 (June 11).—The foundation stone of a new chapel for the Wesleyan Methodists was laid in Fawcett-street, Bishopwearmouth. A suitable address was delivered by the rev. Mr. Brown.—*Ibid.*

Same afternoon, a dreadful accident occurred in Market-street, Newcastle, which was then in course of erection, by which several lives were lost. A few minutes before three o'clock, in an instant, and without a moments warning, or any circumstance taking place to create the least suspicion that all was not safe, three houses building on the south side of the street leading from Grey street toward the Market, and which had been raised nearly to their intended height, came down with a tremendous crash, and the men being at work, they were precipitated along with them, and buried in the ruins. It had thundered several times just before the accident, and those who were standing near the spot described the noise which attended the catastrophe as equally loud and sudden as a clap of thunder, for which it was at the instant mistaken, by those whose backs happened to be towards the falling buildings. There were about seven hundred men employed on the new erections, about one hundred of whom were supposed to be working on or about the portion which fell. Mr. Grainger himself had been inspecting the workmen a minute or two before, and was at the time of the accident, on the scaffolding of the adjoining building. The occurrence caused the greatest consternation, and measures were immediately adopted for disinterring those who had been buried by the materials. In the course of half an hour, twelve men were got out—three dead, and nearly all the rest greatly injured. Up to three o'clock on Friday morning, fifteen men had been extricated, four of whom were dead, ten removed to the Infirmary, and John Kilgour, the foreman of the masons, who was removed to his own house, but died in a few hours afterwards. Of those sent to the Infirmary, two afterwards died, making seven in all, leaving three widows and twelve children in a state of destitution. Many of the workmen did themselves great credit by their intrepidity, and the exertions they made to recover their unfortunate companions, labouring as they did with all their strength to extricate them, in the midst of great danger from the shattered state of parts of the walls yet left standing, and which, from their leaning position, seemed likely to fall every moment.—The mayor being apprised of the accident, with great promptitude repaired to the spot; as did several of the aldermen, and Mr. Forsyth, the town marshal, with a number of the

police officers, for the purpose of preventing any impediments arising to the men who were at work, from the multitude of persons who had flocked to the place on hearing of the occurrence. Soldiers were placed at the entrance to the Nun's-field, to prevent individuals from scaling the walls and other buildings, which might have occasioned further accidents. Nothing entirely satisfactory could be ascertained as to the cause of the building giving way. The first impression seemed to be that the foundation might have sunk, but it was soon found that this could not have been the case, as the erections in this part stand upon solid clay, and the foundation part in fact remained standing, the rupture having taken place considerably above the basis. The opinion most generally entertained was, that the building was struck by lightning, which, when the suddenness of the occurrence is taken into account, its completeness, and the general aspect of the place immediately after the event, seems highly probable, especially when it is added, that thundering and lightning had been going on for nearly an hour before the accident took place. A coroners inquest was held on the bodies of the unfortunate men on the following day, Friday, when the fullest investigation was made into the whole of the circumstances, so far as they could be ascertained; and the parties examined all bore testimony to the soundness of the foundations, and the abundance of the materials used in the buildings, as well as to the anxiety and precautions of Mr. Grainger to prevent the occurrence of accidents to the men in his employ. The verdict returned was to the effect that the sufferers lost their lives by the falling of three buildings in the Nun's-field, with a deodand of 5s. upon each of the said buildings.—*Local Papers.*

1835 (June 12).—Friday, two splendid and massive soup tureens, with stands and ladles, were presented at the Assembly rooms, in Newcastle, to John Hodgson, esq., late M. P. for Newcastle, by a number of his friends and constituents, as a token of respect for the manly and upright manner in which he acted as their representative during the time he was in parliament. Sanderson Ilderton, esq. officiated as chairman, and presented the plate in the name of the subscribers with a suitable speech. Mr. Hodgson returned thanks in an address which drew forth repeated cheers from a large company which had assembled on the occasion.—*Ibid.*

June 13.—After several years labour the owners of the Monkwearmouth colliery (Messrs. Thompson, Pemberton and Co.,) succeeded in loading the first vessel placed under their improved modern staith, with a cargo of good coals. The workmen on the occasion were profusely regaled with strong ale, and great rejoicing took place throughout the whole of the day.—*Ibid.*

1835 (June 14).—A fire broke out in the tar manufactory, at Scotswood; fortunately some of the workmen were on the premises and quenched the flames quickly.—*Local Papers*.

June 17.—Wednesday, the Durham boat regatta commenced by one man out of each of the four oared boats, and two out of the six oared boats, shooting for a silver archery medal—the medal was shot for on the Flats below Old Durham gardens, and was won by Walter Scruton, esq.; Mr. Hills, of the Durham University, 2nd. After which a sweepstakes was shot for by the same parties, and won by Mr. Scruton; Mr. Hills again 2nd; Mr. Wright, of the Durham University, hit the ball—distance each time, 60 yards. At six o'clock, the racing for the silver medals with the six oared boats took place; four started; the medals were won by the Dart, a boat belonging the high sheriff, manned by Messrs. Travis and Co., young men belonging Durham; after which there was a quantity of fireworks set off from the Banks mill, and the whole concluded by a ball at the Assembly-rooms. Thursday, being the anniversary of the battle of Waterloo, the bells of the various churches rang at intervals during the day. At two o'clock the boats went up the river in procession, accompanied by a band of music, to Old Durham, from which they started. The medals for the four oared boats was then run for, and won by the Venus, Messrs. Travis and company—distance from Old Durham to the Prebend's bridge; after which a race by five skiffs for a silver medal, was run—distance from the Prebend's bridge to Elvet bridge, and round the arches and back again; this medal was won by Mr. Tover, of the Durham University. At eight o'clock, the boats again proceeded to Old Durham and back, in procession, after which a brilliant display of fireworks, by Mr. Gyngell, who had been sent for. Two very beautiful six oared boats built on the banks of the Thames for some of the students of the Durham University, took part in the Regatta; W. L. Wharton, esq., the high sheriff of the county, liberally gave the medals for competition.—*Ibid.*

June 18.—Thursday, about two o'clock in the afternoon, one of those dreadful explosions which have been so lamentably frequent in mining districts, took place at one of Mr. Russell's collieries, at Wallsend, known by the name of the church pit, or Russell's old Wallsend, by which twenty-six men and seventy-five boys lost their lives, leaving twenty-four widows and eighty-three children to bewail their sudden, and, under the circumstances, most sorrowful departure. The number of work people employed in this colliery was about 220, one hundred and five of whom were in the mine at the time of the explosion. The colliery had been viewed in the morning by Mr.

Atkinson and his son, under viewers, and it was by them considered perfectly safe and secure in every respect, there not being the least indication of any escape of gas, and at the time of the explosion, there were four overmen and deputies down who had been accustomed to work in the pits for upwards of thirty years. These were among the sufferers. The catastrophe was made known to the banksman by a considerable report, which they spoke of as being like an earthquake, accompanied by a rushing of choke damp to the mouth of the shaft, bringing up with it some of the pitmen's clothes and other light articles from the bottom. There are other two shafts connected with this colliery, in one of which only two men were at work, who say that they felt a slight shock at the time, and soon after a quantity of choke damp. They happily escaped by being drawn up immediately. In the third shaft no one was at work. On the alarm being given the vicinity of the mine was soon thronged with anxious enquirers; and the awful scene of sorrow which ensued, cannot even now be contemplated without exciting feelings of the most painful description. The most strenuous exertions to render immediate assistance to the sufferers were directly made, and eight humane and intrepid individuals volunteered to go down, in the hope of being able to save and bring up some of their companions. After reaching the bottom, however, in attempting to go into the workings, they instantly found themselves being suffocated by the foul air; they had the greatest difficulty in regaining the ropes, and were almost insensible before they could be drawn up again. Such was the dangerous state of the mine, that all further exertions were unavailing, till the following day, Friday, when those creditable efforts were renewed, and 21 bodies brought to bank. The work of humanity was persevered in, day after day, until all the bodies (save that of one poor boy) had been found and taken to their sorrowing friends; and to the astonishment of every one connected with the colliery, on Sunday, four of the unfortunate creatures were found to be alive. They were immediately brought up with the most assiduous care, and eager hopes were infused into the hearts of many, that others would be found who had been similarly favoured. This pleasing hope was, however, soon dispelled. The poor men themselves, thus rescued from a terrible fate, could give no idea of their mode of preservation. For some time they were occasionally delirious, and generally speaking, they had no idea of the time which elapsed between the occurrence of the accident and that of their fortunate rescue. The scene at Wallsend on the Monday afternoon, was especially distressing: numbers were buried there, and it was a painful sight to see two and even three bodies brought from the same

house, and borne away amid the agonized cries of their relations. On Monday, June 22nd an inquest was held on the bodies of the sufferers, and, by adjournment, on the 23rd, 25th, and again on the 27th, during which time some of the jurors visited those persons who were saved, and heard what they had to say respecting the accident, but they were unable to give any account of great interest with regard to this melancholy event; in fact the origin of the accident remained as much a mystery as at the moment of its occurrence. Verdict:—Accidental death.—*Local Papers*.

1835 (June 25).—The foundation stone of Salem chapel for the use of the Methodist New Connexion, built by Mr. Grainger, in Hood-street, Newcastle, was laid by Wm. Ridgway, esq., of Northwood, Staffordshire Potteries, who delivered an appropriate speech on the occasion. Afterwards, about two hundred and fifty of the friends took tea at the Music-hall.—*Ibid*.

June 26.—A young angler left Rothbury in the morning, to enjoy the delightful recreation of fly-fishing. Having filled his creel in a short time, he was obliged to borrow an apron from a cottager during his excursion; and, after enjoying the charms of the romantic dales and pleasant streams, which present in their course every variety of smooth water, rapids, and pools for the exercise of the angler's skill: he finally returned home in the evening, with the very extensive stock of eighteen dozen fine trouts, which he had caught with a single hook during the day.—*Ibid*.



ROTHBURY, NORTHUMBERLAND (1840).

1835 (June 28).—Sunday, on the casting of a hive of bees at Wolsingham, the swarm alighted on a young woman, and covered her from her shoulders to the crown of her head, forming a complete hood; and what is most remarkable, they were hived without her receiving a single sting, which was doubtless owing to her courage in permitting them to alight without offering the least resistance.—*Local Papers*.

June 29.—Died, at Falkirk, the rev. John Brown Patterson, M. A., an eloquent and amiable minister of the Church of Scotland. He was born at Alnwick in Northumberland, of Scottish parentage, on the 29th day of January, 1804. During the term of his theological studies at the university of Edinburgh, Mr. Patterson wrote an essay “On the National Character of the Athenians,” which gained the prize offered by his Majesty’s Commissioners for visiting the Universities and Colleges of Scotland—an essay distinguished for varied erudition, philosophical research, and splendid eloquence. Towards the close of 1829, he received a presentation from Mr. Peel, his majesty’s secretary of state, to the parish of Falkirk. His “Discourses, in two volumes appeared in 1837. A memoir is prefixed to this posthumous publication.—*J. Hardy’s Col.*

June 29.—The first exhibition of the Newcastle Society of Artists, took place in the Academy of Arts, Blackett-street, Newcastle. The collection of paintings and sculpture, about two hundred specimens, was mostly executed by resident artists.—*Local Papers*.

June.—This month a splendid monument of Malta stone was erected in the chancel of the church at Barnardcastle, to the memory of the late Mr. Baron Hullock. The monument forms a niche in the wall of the sacred edifice, containing a statue of the Goddess of Justice; and underneath it is the following inscription, upon marble, supported by a carved corbel of the arms and crest of the late baron:—

To the Memory of the

Hon. Sir JOHN HULLOCK, Knt. and Baron of the Exchequer.

He was born at Barnardcastle, April 3, 1767,
called to the Bar, by the Society of Gray’s Inn, in 1793,
married in 1794,

raised to the Bench of the Exchequer in 1823,
and died at Abingdon, in Berks, on his Judicial Circuit,
31st July, 1829.

By a clear and vigorous mind, he rose to eminence as a sound lawyer,
and, promoted solely by his learning, industry, and
integrity, he discharged the duties of a judge
to the general satisfaction of his
country.

This monument is erected by his afflicted widow.

1835 (June 30).—A party of fourteen young persons of both sexes, belonging to Sunderland and Shields, repaired to Marsden, to recreate themselves on the rocks at that place. Here they remained until, to their surprise and terror, they found themselves surrounded by the sea, which was then rising rapidly round them. Their desperate situation having become known to four men, named Wann, Thompson, Aynsley, and Brunskill, who were in a house near, they were all safely got on shore. In another half hour, in all probability, they would have lost their lives by their thoughtlessness.—*Local Papers*.

July 2.—The first shipment of coals from Haswell colliery took place at Seaham.—*Ibid*.

Same day, a public meeting of the inhabitants of Newcastle, convened by the right worshipful the mayor, on the requisition of upwards of 300 individuals, was held in the Guildhall, "to take into consideration the propriety of petitioning both houses of parliament" in favour of the corporation reform bill.—*Ibid*.

Early in this month, the following distressing occurrence took place at Bamburgh:—the rev. Mr. Marshall, curate, being librarian at the castle, proceeded there with his two sons, the eldest between 9 and 10 years of age, for the purpose of giving some books to a gentleman who accompanied them on a pony, which was entrusted to the care of a boy, while the gentleman and Mr. Marshall went into the castle. During their absence, the eldest of Mr. Marshall's sons got on the pony, while the younger whipped it behind; under this treatment the animal became impatient, and set off at a rapid pace down the precipice, in the course of which the youthful rider fell off, and his head coming in contact with a large stone, he was instantly deprived of life. His foot being entangled in the stirrup, his body was for a considerable time dragged by the animal, and when recovered it presented a shocking spectacle of mutilation. The occurrence was seen by the parent from the window, whose feelings may be easier conceived than described.—*Ibid*.

July 9.—Thursday, that stupendous undertaking, the Hartlepool docks and harbour, was opened for the shipment of coal and merchandize. The day being extremely fine, great rejoicings took place. The first shipment of coals was made in the Britannia, of Sunderland. Having taken her cargo on board, she proceeded to sea, amid the ringing of bells, the firing of cannon, and the acclamations of those who had assembled to witness the ceremony. The coals were from the new colliery at Thornley, whence they were conveyed along the railway to Hartlepool. Three other vessels were at anchor in the harbour when the ship sailed. The first fish caught in the dock was

a very large eel, which was purchased by a gentleman for six shillings.—*Local Papers.*

1835 (July 15).—Wednesday morning, about 3 o'clock, a fire was discovered in the work-room of Mrs. Arkless, dress maker, in Wellington place, Newcastle, which, however, was put out without doing further damage than destroying a box of patterns. On the alarm being given, the fire engines were promptly on the spot, but their assistance was not required.—*Ibid.*

About the close of this month, the subscription clock was placed in the tower of St. Thomas's chapel, Barras bridge, Newcastle, by Mr. J. P. Paine, of London, the maker. It has three transparent illuminated dials, seven feet six inches in diameter. These were lighted with gas, and the clock first set in motion on the evening of Tuesday the 11th of August following.—*Ibid.*

This month, whilst some workmen were opening out an old pit, near Whickham, which had been closed upwards of 80 years, they found at the bottom, 28 fathoms a live toad, which is now in the possession of John Watson, Whickham. It is still more singular how the animal could exist in the foul air, as the men had to erect a brattish to ventilate the shaft before they could enter.—*Ibid.*

This month, a small cask, filled with gold coins of the reign of George II., was found in pulling down an old house at High Coniscliffe, near Darlington.—*Ibid.*



CONISCLIFFE CHURCH (1836).

CHAPTER XI.



N Thursday, July 30th, 1835, about half-past ten o'clock in the forenoon, the boiler attached to the extensive worsted and carpet manufactory of Messrs. John and William Henderson, situated in the Back-lane, near Framwellgate-bridge, Durham, exploded with tremendous force, carrying away the walls, &c. of the engine-room, scattering in fragments a large chimney, the factory bell, clock, and appendages, and more

or less damaging the adjacent buildings belonging to the works. The part of the boiler which was blown away was projected to an immense height, impressing those who saw it with an idea of a balloon ascent, and fell with a loud crash on the opposite shore of the Wear, a distance of upwards of one hundred yards from the manufactory. Had it taken any other direction, the consequences would have been much more serious; and considering the number of individuals employed in the manufactory, between 170 and 180, men, women, and children, it was surprising that the effects of the explosion were comparatively so limited. As it was, however, the number of persons who were instantaneously buried in the ruins was very alarming; and no sooner had the noise announced the catastrophe, than women and children were seen running in all directions towards the spot, anxious to learn the fate of their relations and friends, and uttering cries and lamentations truly distressing. A number of individuals promptly commenced removing the heated bricks, timber, and rubbish, and in the course of a quarter of an hour, nine unfortunate persons were rescued, and carried to the Infirmary. Three women were taken away in the arms of men, and their appearance was truly shocking. Their clothes were torn and wet, their hair dishevelled, the scalded and blackened skin lay rough on their arms, necks, and shoulders, and

their features were scarcely distinguishable amidst bruises and blood. The sufferers were Joseph Hope, smith and engineman, and Isaac Smith, fireman (who came to the factory only on the previous Saturday), both of whom died in the course of the day; Catherine French (who died a few days afterwards), Hannah and Ann Coltman, cousins, Hannah Fenwick, a young girl named Harbutt, John Bonner, and Edward Charlton. The amount of damage done to the property was very considerable, a large portion of the workings being in ruins. On Saturday the 1st of August, a jury was sworn at the Angel inn, in Crossgate, Durham, before Michael Hall, esq., coroner for Chester ward, to enquire into the cause of the accident, only one witness was then examined, when it was thought better to adjourn the inquest until the following Wednesday, in order to enable the parochial authorities to collect evidence. The enquiry was accordingly resumed on that day, and after a long and patient investigation of the various circumstances, in which several of the workmen belonging to the factory, who were nearest the boiler when the explosion took place, were minutely examined, as also the surgeon who attended the sufferers, as to whether they had stated any thing as to the nature or cause of the accident, and several engineers from different places, the jury retired, and returned in a few minutes with a verdict of accidental death, and that there was no evidence to prove a want of care on the part of the engineman and fireman, or their employers. Deodand on the engine, 10s.—*Local Papers*.

1835 (July 30).—The royal assent was given to the Brandling Junction railway bill.—*Ibid*.

August 17.—Monday, the trustees of the Derwent and Shotley Bridge turnpike road, opened that part of the line which leads from Axwell Park Gate and Derwent Bridge, (where it joins the Scotswood branch road, a little west of the chain bridge,) to Long Close Gate, near Hamsterley, (where it joins the Medomsley road) the distance six miles. This useful road passes through a hilly and beautifully wooded district, yet it is in all parts of very easy inclination; it winds through the most picturesque part of the north of England, and the traveller on business or pleasure must be highly gratified by the many splendid views and great variety of delightful scenery.—*Ibid*.

August 18.—Tuesday in the evening, a public meeting was held in the Seamen's Hall, South Shields, to take into consideration the causes of the frequent shipwrecks and loss of life at sea. Mr. Henry Woodroff took the chair, and stated that, in the last ten years, 515 members of the Seamen's Society in that town had lost effects by shipwreck, and 109 had been drowned. For the effects of the survi-

vors, the sum of £2,564. 11s. 10d. had been paid, and £763. for the death of the others, and an annuity to 222 mothers, widows, children, and orphans they had left. A great majority of these calamities would, in his opinion, have been avoided, if properly qualified men were appointed to command the vessels, and the shipowners and shippers of goods were by law prohibited from insuring more than 9–10ths of the actual market value of ship or cargo. Mr. W. was followed by Jas. Ballingall, esq., of Kirkaldy, who read to the meeting an address prepared for the occasion, and concluded by recommending the meeting to petition the government for the appointment of committees at all the principal sea-ports, to examine into the state of vessels, and the qualifications of the officers to whose charge they are committed, which was carried unanimously.—*Local Papers.*

1835 (August 19).—On this day, Wednesday, an oratorio was performed on the opening of the new organ in Ovingham church, Northumberland, presented to the parish by the rev. James Birkett, vicar. The music, on this occasion, was selected with taste and judgment, and the performance (by the choir of St. Nicholas's) highly gratifying. Throughout the whole, however, the powerful and melodious tones of the organ were pre-eminent, and the execution of Mr. Ions was much admired. The munificent gift was acknowledged by a numerous and highly respectable audience.—*Ibid.*

August 20.—The committee of the Port of Newcastle Association for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck, visited the southern stations, and had a practice for instruction of the Rock Apparatus recently placed at Blyth. Four rockets were fired, viz., three of the three pounders, and one of the twelve pounders belonging to the Blyth station; and the result of the practice was to confirm the high opinion formed of this means of saving life from the experiments conducted in the previous year under Mr. Dennett's own superintendence—The Blyth life-boat was also exercised, with several of the committee on board, who were much gratified with its excellent state of keeping, and the expeditious manner in which it was launched from the truck into the sea.—*Ibid.*

August 21.—A neat Wesleyan chapel was opened at Edmondbyers, in the county of Durham.—*Ibid.*

August 26.—Wednesday, the very handsome stone bridge across North Tyne at Bellingham, was opened to the public, amidst the rejoicings of a large assemblage of persons from the surrounding country. About two o'clock, a numerous body of gentlemen on horseback, amongst whom were W. H. Charlton, esq., John Ridley, esq., Robert Charlton, esq., Thomas Ridley, esq., N. Leadbitter, esq., Edward Riddell, esq., Rev. W. Elliott, rector of Simonburn, &c. &c.,

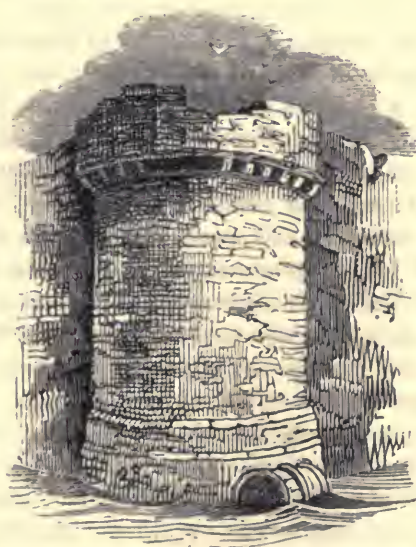
assembled at Bellingham, and proceeded towards the bridge with banners and a band of music. The procession having halted on the centre of the bridge, an iron plate was inserted in the battlement by Mr. Charlton, bearing the following inscription :—

ERECTED BY SUBSCRIPTION,
1835.

JOHN GREEN, ARCHITECT.

The rev. Mr. Beattie, rector of Bellingham, pronounced a blessing on the undertaking, and the procession moved on to the extent of the new approach on the south side. On its return it proceeded to the house of Mr. Gibson, the Black Bull inn, where an elegant dinner was prepared, to which a large party of gentlemen sat down, W. H. Charlton, esq., in the chair. Many loyal and appropriate toasts were drunk in the course of the evening, and the company separated highly delighted with the proceedings of the day, and gratified by the consciousness of having contributed to the erection of an edifice of the highest value to the inhabitants of the surrounding district.—*Local Papers*.

1835 (August 26).—The sea ran very high at Hartlepool, owing to which considerable damage was done to the town wall, by making breaches therein.—*Ibid*.



BASTION IN THE WALLS OF HARTLEPOOL (1814).

August 28.—Died, at Eltringham, aged 91, much respected, Mr. Matthew Johnson. During the great flood in the Tyne, in 1771, the house in which he resided, near Ovingham boat-house, was thrown

down by the current, when Johnson and another of the family saved their lives by catching hold of a tree, to which they clung until the water subsided.—*Local Papers.*

1835 (Aug. 29).—Saturday, as the marquis of Londonderry's carriage, in which were the children, attended by three servants, was proceeding at a rapid rate, and in the act of making a sudden turn round the shambles, to the Three Tuns Hotel, in Thirsk, the door slipped from its fastenings and flew open. By this accident lord Adolphus, a fine little fellow about nine years of age, was thrown into a position of imminent peril. His head and body were hanging out of the carriage, betwixt the wheels; but providentially, at this moment, one of the servants caught him by the legs, and succeeded in preventing him from falling to the ground, it being impossible to stop the carriage before it arrived at the door of the inn. The door of the carriage kept beating against the youth all the way, and the inhabitants looked on horror-struck, expecting every moment to see him fall and be crushed by the wheels. Happily, however, when the carriage did stop their anxious fears were allayed, and it was found, that almost by a miracle, the subject of so great peril had escaped uninjured. This alarming accident had its origin in a reprehensible practice, common among post-boys, of forcing their horses into a gallop, by way of coming to their journey's end with a dash, when within 100 yards or so of an inn. It is a somewhat singular circumstance, that on the afternoon of the same day, an accident befel the carriage of the marchioness of Londonderry precisely at the same place, and in which her ladyship also had a very narrow escape. This accident too, had its cause in the same improper practice. The driver, by suddenly spurring the horses at the sharp and inconvenient turn up to the inn, gave the body of the carriage so violent a swing that its broad-side was brought upon the wheel, and materially injured the very beautiful panel of the vehicle. A complete overturn was with the greatest difficulty avoided.—*York Courant.*

August 30.—Sunday, a neat and commodious chapel belonging to Wesleyan Methodists, was opened for divine service at Whittingham, in the Hexham circuit.—*Local Papers.*

September 1.—The Newcastle and Gateshead Law Institute was formed. The objects of this society are declared to be the promotion of the study of the law, by the formation of a law library—the reading of papers on subjects of law and jurisprudence—and the delivery of lectures.—*Ibid.*

Same day, a case of lithotomy was performed at the Infirmary, Newcastle, by Mr. Baird, when, singular to say, a stone was extracted of an oval shape, measuring nine inches round one way and seven and

a half inches the other, and weighing eight and a half ounces.—*Local Papers.*

1835 (Sept. 2).—Wednesday, the bells of the cathedral of Durham were rung in honour of sir Charles Wetherell's arrival in that city, as temporal chancellor. On Thursday morning long before 11 o'clock the hour appointed for opening the court of chancery, considerable numbers assembled on the palace green to obtain a sight of the chancellor. The court was completely crowded, and "his honour" was occupied just two hours in hearing the causes that came before him.—*Ibid.*

September 8.—On the morning of this day, Tuesday, a gentleman arrived at Stockton by the Times coach. From thence he went by the railway to Darlington, on arriving at which place he missed a five pound note, and not having had his purse out since leaving Stockton, he returned thither by the same route in the afternoon, and commenced a diligent search at the spot where he had alighted from the Times in the morning, and speedily found the note, which had lain in the street upwards of six hours and a half.—*Ibid.*

September 9.—This day, the royal assent was given by commission to the new municipal corporation bill.—*Ibid.*

September 11.—About ten o'clock A. M. a fire broke out in a cottage at Birtley. The woman who occupied it had gone out and locked three children in the house, one of whom was suffocated, and the others were fortunately rescued by a neighbour. The furniture was consumed. The engines from Newcastle were amazingly prompt in their being on the spot in a comparatively short space of time, after the alarm was given.—*Ibid.*

September 14.—This day, Monday, Daniel O'Connell, esq. M. P., visited Newcastle, on which occasion the town presented a very animated appearance from the number of persons assembled to witness his arrival. A public meeting of those favourable to his political views was held in St. Nicholas's square, at one o'clock, John Fife, esq. in the chair, when an address was voted, which it was resolved, Mr. Charles Larkin should be requested to present to the learned gentleman on his reaching Newcastle; the meeting then broke up. At about half-past two o'clock Mr. O'Connell was met in Gateshead by an immense concourse of persons, those who were more immediately connected with the arrangements, forming themselves into a procession, in which they walked four abreast, attended by three bands of music; a few flags were also carried at intervals. In this order they reached St. Nicholas's square shortly before three o'clock, and the chair having again been taken by Mr. Fife, the address was presented to Mr. O'Connell, and that gentleman having addressed the meet-

ing at considerable length, proceeded to the Turk's Head inn, accompanied by his friends. At five o'clock, about three hundred and forty gentlemen sat down to dinner in the Music hall, in Blackett-street, John Fife, esq. in the chair.—*Local Papers.*

1835 (Sept. 15).—Tuesday, the splendid Catholic chapel in Bridge-street, Sunderland, was opened with the usual rites observed on such occasions. Although the day was very unfavourable, the church was crowded by great numbers of respectable persons of the town and neighbourhood. The rev. Dr. Briggs, who officiated, attended by twenty-four Catholic clergymen, preached a very appropriate sermon from the sixth chapter of the First Book of Esdras, verse 16,—“And the Children of Israel, the priests and the Levites, and the rest of the children of the captivity, kept the dedication of the house of God with joy.”—*Ibid.*

Same day, John Jobling was unfortunately killed on lord Durham's railway, near Bishopwearmouth, by several waggons running over him. What is remarkable, his son lost his life in the same manner a few years ago; also, his daughter's husband.—*Ibid.*

September 26.—As Mr. W. A. Mitchell, of Newcastle, was fishing with the rod from the rocks, at the south end of Cullercoats' sands, he perceived a large fish apparently entangled amongst some weeds. After some efforts it was forced into a hole amongst the rocks, and with the skilful aid of another gentleman, the fish was secured by means of a spear which was attached to the bottom piece of Mr. Mitchell's rod. It proved to be a fine specimen of *Lophius Piscatorius*, which by the singular management of the fins, by puddling the water, and the elevation of the slender horns, which are near its eyes, manages to catch fish by a mode much resembling angling, and which has procured it the trivial name of “The Angler.” It weighed 44lb and was about a yard and a half long, and half a yard broad. Its enormous jaw would have admitted the largest human head, and its tremendous show of teeth, and the force with which it employed them, rendered it a formidable antagonist. A hand or foot would have been nothing in its way. It seemed to use force enough to have bitten in sunder, the iron spear.—*Ibid.*

October 1.—Thursday, a curious circumstance occurred in the Tyne, at North Shields. A person in the employ of Messrs. Cornfoot, Carr, and Co., North Shields, while busy with his daily occupation on the Low-lights shore, observed an unusual ripple in the water, when to his astonishment he discovered a large cod fish, about three feet long, which having attempted to swallow a sole, about fifteen inches long, and not being able either to swallow or eject it, had, in its agony,

made towards the shore, and was the occasion of its capture.—*Local Papers.*

1835 (October).—Early in this month the common council resolved to present the wife of the mayor of Newcastle (J. L. Hood, esq.,) with a piece of silver plate, value one hundred guineas, as a memento of her accouchment having taking place in the mansion-house ;—a rare occurrence in the official history of the corporation.—*Ibid.*

October 3.—Died, in the 31st year of his age, and after an illness of three weeks, Mr. John M. Wilson, during several years editor of the Berwick Advertiser, and author of various compositions of prose and poetry which are familiar to the public. Mr. W. acquired the status in society which he occupied at the time of his decease by dint of his own exertions, and thus added another to the honourable number of persons who have overcome difficulties, and bettered their condition in the world.—*Ibid.*

October 4 and 5.—Sunday and Monday, Mark Watson, a youth only sixteen years of age, but employed as a regular minister amongst the denomination called Primitive Methodists, preached in the Music hall, Newcastle. The novelty of hearing so young a person drew together large audiences, which contributed much to swell the funds, which that body were endeavouring to raise towards obtaining a new place of worship.—*Ibid.*

October 5.—Between 2 and 3 o'clock in the afternoon, Margaret Turnbull, a poor woman, upwards of 70 years of age, living alone in a cottage near the New Cannon, Gateshead low fell, was alarmed by a slight noise as if the back wall of her house cracked, on which she made towards the door, when no sooner had she set her foot upon the threshold than the wall alluded to and the whole roof fell in ; providentially this happened when the poor creature was moving about, for had it taken place when in bed she must have been buried in the ruins, as the bulk of the roof fell there.—*Ibid.*

October 8.—At night an immense mass of limestone rock, projecting from the south bank of the river Wear near lord Durham's drops, fell with a tremendous force into the river. Fortunately no vessel was in the berth at the time, or inevitable destruction must have ensued. The weight of the stone was supposed to be about five hundred tons. No damage was done by the fall, it being but a temporary inconvenience to navigation.—*Ibid.*

October 13.—Between twelve and one, on the morning of Monday, the inhabitants of the Birtley iron works were alarmed by the discovery of a fire, which suddenly broke out in the pattern shop. Engines were sent for from Newcastle, and in half an hour one of the Newcastle fire engines reached the spot. The North British engine arrived soon

after and was followed by a second engine belonging to the first company. There was a plentiful supply of water and all three played with great effect. Notwithstanding however the exertions made, the fire was not got under till between three and four o'clock. The pattern shop and contents were destroyed. A man named William Harle, with his wife and two children had to be taken from a window three stories high.—*Local Papers*.

1835 (Oct. 12).—Monday evening, about eight o'clock, William Dickson, esq., of Alnwick, and Mr. T. J. Turnbull, clerk to the magistrates, had a very narrow escape from serious injury. Those gentlemen were in a chaise, on their return to Newcastle from Tynemouth, at the latter of which places Mr. Dickson had been occupied in holding a manor court. On reaching the railway upon which the coals are conveyed from the Cramlington and Seghill collieries to the river Tyne, and which crosses the road about two miles from Shields, they were alarmed by observing from the windows of the vehicle a train of loaded coal waggons coming along the self-acting inclined plane, so near as to render it probable the chaise would be run down. The driver, however, whipped his horses and used great exertions to get out the way, but notwithstanding which the foremost waggon struck the hinder part of the chaise, near the door, broke in the panel, and overturned the vehicle into the road. The shock was so tremendous as to upset the first waggon of the train, and throw several of the others off the railroad. The driver of the chaise was also thrown down with great violence, and was injured in his head and thigh. Had the chaise been struck in the centre, instead of near the hind part, the consequence must have been very serious, if not fatal to Mr. Dickson and Mr. Turnbull.—*Ibid*.



THE completion of the new markets at Newcastle, by Mr. Grainger, was celebrated by a public dinner, on the 22nd of October, 1835, at which nearly 2,000 individuals sat down under one roof, (that of the Green market) forming a mere section of the splendid erections. These markets are the most magnificent in the world. This will be apparent from a comparative statement of the New markets in Newcastle with the two most extensive in Great Britain. Hungerford market, in London, in point of grandeur and architectural effect, is allowed to surpass Covent-garden, and these, with St. John's, in Liverpool, are the only markets with which any comparison need be instituted. As regards the space occupied, Newcastle market is larger than Hungerford in the proportion of

13,906 to 6,400 square yards, and it exceeds St. John's, in Liverpool, in the proportion of 13,906 to 8,235 square yards. In this calculation, the shops adjoining the market are included, and so far as their situation, and the nature of occupation of them are concerned, the area on which they stand may properly be considered part of the market. The magnificent erections, each of which is most complete as a shop and dwelling-house, surrounding the markets, form portion of four of the new streets. The shops fronting the markets in Grainger-street and Clayton-street, are in length 410 feet each, and in Nun's street and Nelson-street, fronting the other two sides of the square, the length is 312 feet. These erections, during the time of their progress, were not only objects of great interest to the inhabitants of Newcastle and the surrounding towns, but also to strangers from a distance, including many distinguished noblemen and gentlemen. The New markets, which were now finished, formed the most attractive feature of Mr. Grainger's splendid improvements. As before stated, they are inclosed within a square of beautiful stone fronted houses, designed with a chaste and classic elegance, surpassing anything in street architecture hitherto witnessed in the north of England. The stone is of the best quality, the mason work finely polished, and executed in a very superior manner. The area occupied by the markets exceeds two acres. The Butcher market consists of four spacious avenues, 19 feet 4 inches broad, and 27 feet high, extending in length 338 feet and containing in each about 48 butchers' shops, well lighted and ventilated. The walls and ceilings are plastered, the latter being ornamented with intersecting plaster beams; and in the eastern avenue the rays of light descend from 50 skylights, through the apertures in the coffer ceiling, with a most imposing effect. There are in the Butcher market, besides these skylights, 360 windows, inclosed with cast-iron glazed sashes, to open or shut, as the state of the weather may require. A wood cornice, supported on pilasters, is continued over the front of the butchers' shops, with light and tastefully designed fanlights and ventilators. The four principal avenues are connected by four rows of lofty arcades, 12 feet wide, the avenues are brilliantly lighted with gas; and the whole comprises a splendid bazaar of shops, which strikes the stranger on entering with astonishment and wonder beyond description. There is also, in one of the arcades, a spacious weigh-house, occupying the sites of three butchers' shops. It is fitted up with apparatus and machinery of the newest, most accurate, and approved plans. The Vegetable market is connected with the Butcher market by a continuation of the four arcades before described, and is entered from the surrounding streets by four other arcades or passage-ways, 12 feet wide, two in Clayton-

street, one in Nun's-street, and one in Nelson-street, over each of which is placed a dome-light. This building is erected in a different style from the Butcher market, consisting of one stupendous hall, exceeding in dimensions the far-famed and justly-admired hall of Westminster. It is 313 feet in length, and 57 feet in width within the fronts of the fruit shops, which surround the interior. It is covered with a cathedral-framed roof, the timbers of which are planed and exposed to view; and the finished comfort which is presented in the plaster ceilings of the Butcher market, is more than compensated by the lofty and handsomely constructed roof here presented. It is upwards of 40 feet in height, and is supported by two rows of cast-iron pillars, (in all 30, to each of which a brilliant gas-lamp is affixed) 26 feet high, and is surrounded by a glazed lantern, extending the full length of the hall, giving light to the centre, while the extremities are lighted by 104 windows similar to those of the Butcher market. In a recess at the north-east end of the Green market, a clock with a large dial is placed; and at the south-west end, in a recess corresponding with that containing the clock, and admirably lighted from the roof, are placed the Newcastle arms, spiritedly sculptured upon a large scale, in bold relief, by Dunbar, an excellent specimen of heraldic sculpture. In mentioning the ornamental and useful conveniences of the Green market, we must not neglect to notice the two magnificent fountains, which in form and dimensions resemble the beautiful fountain in the gardens of the Borghese palace at Rome. They are constructed of the finest description of stone, from the quarries at Kenton, in this neighbourhood. The masonry is richly carved; the circular basins are capable of holding about 3000 gallons each, and the water, after rising ten or twelve feet from the jet, falls down into a cup, and flows over sculptured foliage, which forms the edge of the cup, into the basin below. The fountains were designed and constructed under the direction of Mr. Dobson, and the tubes of the fountains, as well as the various gas fittings throughout the markets, skillfully executed under the directions of Mr. Brunting, of Newcastle. The water, after falling into the basins of the fountains, is conveyed by pipes, for the use of butchers occupying shops, and for other requisite purposes.

When the day was fixed for opening the splendid markets, which have been described there was a general wish to celebrate the event by a public dinner. To the stewards of the incorporated companies is due the merit of giving, upon this occasion, an impulse to the public mind. Those gentlemen met, Mr. Jacob Ord being in the chair, and agreed upon a plan of operation, and obtained the sanction of the mayor, and the permission of Mr. Grainger to carry it into effect. A

public announcement was then made that the dinner would take place in the Vegetable market, which, as we have said, is the most magnificent hall in England. To enable those in a humble station, as well as those in the higher walks of life, to participate in the festive scene, it was determined the price of admission to one end of the hall should be 2s. each, including dinner and ale, and that the tickets for the north-east end should be 5s. each, including dinner and wine. The following innkeepers each supplied dinner for 100 individuals at 5s. viz.—Mr. Baker, Waterloo Inn, Westgate; Mrs. Dixon, White Hart, Cloth Market; Mr. Angus, Eldon Arms, Blackett-street; Mrs. Ridley, Three Tuns, Newgate-street; Mr. Acaster, Plough, Spicer-lane; Mr. Johnson, White House, Pilgrim-street; Mr. Kabery, Sun, Newgate-street; Mr. Potts, Grapes, Blackett-street; Mr. Carnaby, Yellow Doors, Close. Over the northern entrance to the Green market from Clayton-street, an orchestra was constructed, for the convenience of an excellent band, whose performances frequently enlivened the proceedings of the day. In the arrangements, the ladies were not forgotten. For their accommodation a spacious gallery was constructed, at the south-east end, commanding a full view of the interesting proceedings, with an opportunity of hearing the speeches after dinner. The preparations having been completed, application was then made to the right worshipful the mayor, who obligingly and cheerfully consented to preside. To render the hall as comfortable as circumstances would admit every avenue except one was closed, the spaces for vertical windows, which are now enclosed with cast-iron glazed sashes, were covered with canvass, and the magnificent space was brilliantly lighted up with gas. The effect was indescribably grand. The partial exclusion of day-light, and the substitution of the gas-lamps, gave the magnificent space, a dioramic effect. The spacious roof, when the eye rested upon it for a few moments, seemed to rise into the air, and the distance from one end of the hall to the other appeared amazing. As the time approached for the dinner, the public interest was greater than on any occasion we ever remember. The new streets and markets were promenaded by numerous, elegant, and fashionable parties, and at two o'clock those who had provided themselves with tickets had taken their places without the slightest irregularity or inconvenience. We have before said, that about 2000 individuals dined, and we ought to add that this immense company congregated at only a few days' notice. The ladies' gallery was filled, there being present about 300, including Mrs. Mayoress, and many other ladies of distinction, which gave the hall a gay and cheerful appearance. The tickets were all taken almost immediately, and so great was the desire to be present at the dinner, that in many instances 5s.

10s. and even 15s. premium were given for a ticket that had originally cost only 5s. The mayor entered the hall soon after ten o'clock, and was enthusiastically cheered, as was also William Ord, esq., one of the members of the town, Mr. Grainger and other gentlemen. The mayor was supported on his right by W. Ord, esq. M. P., Mr. Grainger, Mr. Alderman Sorsbie, W. Clayton, esq., the rev. the vicar of Newcastle, Dr. Headlam, &c. On the chairman's left were W. H. Ord, esq. M. P., for Newport, John Dobson, esq. (the architect appointed by the corporation to superintend the erection of the markets on their behalf), Mr. Alderman Reed, John Adamson, esq. Mr. Alderman Shadforth, Samuel Walker Parker, esq., Dixon Dixon, esq., J. Fenwick, esq., John Clayton, esq. the town clerk, &c. The above gentlemen, who sat at an elevated table, are all who can be particularized, the company included much of the worth and respectability of the town. Business was nearly suspended, and the church bells sent forth merry peals. The general arrangements were excellent, and reflected the highest credit upon the managers. The several innkeepers who supplied the tables, and their assistants found ample accommodation in the numerous shops surrounding the Green market. The tables were amply provided, and the dinner, notwithstanding the immense number who partook of it, had all the elegance and comfort of a social party. After the cloth had been removed, the toasts began and continued, intermingled with speeches from the various gentlemen, among which were, "Success to the new markets," "The corporation of Newcastle," "The members for the town of Newcastle," "The health of Mr. W. H. Ord," "The port and trade of Newcastle," &c. At six in the evening John Clayton, esq., became the second chairman. Those who still remained of the numbers that had participated in the festivities of this joyous day, soon afterwards were advised by him "that they should go home to their wives and their sweethearts." They separated as they had met, in peace and good will towards each other. On the Saturday following the markets were opened for business. The occasion was exceedingly interesting, and the excitement which not only applied to the inhabitants of the town, but of the whole district, for many miles round, was great beyond all precedent. Both the butcher and vegetable markets were thronged to a degree which—notwithstanding their spaciousness—rendered it difficult at times to pass along. The show of meat was very fine as to quality, and the quantity is supposed to have been almost double what had been usually provided at the old market on a Saturday. The Green market, which was profusely stored with all kinds of vegetables, fruits, &c., was most splendidly decorated, and the fountains playing at intervals had a striking effect. At night, when the gas was lighted,

the Butcher market especially had a brilliant appearance. The bells rung merrily, and the occasion was regarded by every one as auspicious for the town.—*Local Papers*.

1835 (Oct 23).—Friday, the new church of Dinnington was consecrated by the lord bishop of Carlisle, in the presence of a numerous congregation. Prayers were read on the occasion by the rev. John Reed, vicar of Newburn, after which an excellent sermon was preached by the rev. J. R. Furness. The clergy in attendance were the rev. T. Myers, rev. R. Green, rev. R. B. Hunter, rev. C. Reed, rev. J. Fox, rev. H. W. Wright, rev. T. Ridley, and the rev. H. Gipps, chaplain to the bishop. Dinnington is now a distinct parish, with a considerable district, consecrated by the name of the vicarage of St. Matthew. The rev. J. Lightfoot, B.D., vicar of Ponteland, patron, presented the rev. J. R. Furness, M.A., to the vicarage of the new church.—*Ibid*.

October 26.—Newcastle and the surrounding district was visited by a severe storm of wind and rain. In many exposed situations trees were torn up by the roots, and other damage incurred. In the neighbourhood of Berwick, the storm increased to a hurricane, attended with heavy rain and snow upon the hills. The Tweed in the space of 8 hours rose full ten feet perpendicular, and as the tributary streams were in full flood, the country was much inundated. The storm ceased about midnight, but it was evening before the waters abated; yet so rapidly did it subside that on the next morning there was not more than three or four feet water in the bed of the stream.—*Ibid*.

This month, Mr. Briggs, the keeper of Lambton park, killed two deer with one shot, from a rifle, though the animals were at the time 16 yards from each other. The ball passed through the head of the nearest, in an oblique direction, and hit the second on the side of the head which it nearly penetrated. It was impelled with such force and precision, that both animals died without a struggle, and apparently at the same point of time.—*Ibid*.

November 1.—On the morning of this day, Sunday, the body of a young man, about 19 years of age, named Thomas Thorsby, was found lying on the edge of a limekiln at the Skinner's-burn, near Newcastle, quite dead, and with one of his legs, which had been hanging over the edge of the kiln, completely burned off! It appeared that he was a young man of drunken habits, and frequently went to the limekilns to sleep. An inquest was held on the body, and from the investigation, it appeared that he had died from suffocation—Verdict accordingly.—*Ibid*.

November 2.—As the mail coach was returning from Carlisle to

Newcastle, it was upset at a place called Coastly dean, about two miles west of Hexham. The accident was caused by one of the wheelers stumbling on coming on to the bridge which crosses the dean, and in attempting to recover itself, the coach swerved, and overturned, and rolled over the precipice. The coachman, named Acon, was thrown from his seat, and was so dreadfully mangled, that he died almost immediately. Two outside passengers and the guard escaped by leaping off the coach. Two ladies and three children who were inside, also escaped uninjured, although they rolled down the bank with the coach. The passengers and mail bags were forwarded in a chaise. On the following day, an inquest was held on the body of Acon, verdict—Accidental death. Deodand on the coach 2s.—

Local Papers.

1835 (Nov 5).—As the train of waggons, attached to the Rapid steam engine, were proceeding along the railway to Newcastle, from Hexham, a cow in one of the pens became alarmed at the noise made by the engine, and actually leapt over the rails of the pen, apparently with the greatest ease. The poor animal, though she rolled down the steep bank, escaped without any injury, and as soon as she recovered herself, she galloped after the waggons. The engine was stopped and the pen taken back to the station again, where the cow was replaced and properly secured with ropes.—*Ibid.*

November 7.—On the evening of this day, Saturday, about 5 o'clock, a fire broke out in the stove drying-house, belonging to Mr. Thomas Lightfoot, paper manufacturer, Heworth shore. An express arrived for the engines from Newcastle, which set off promptly, but so rapid was the progress of the destructive element, that the building and its contents were speedily consumed, rendering the services of the engines unnecessary, and they were consequently countermanded, while on the road to Heworth.—*Ibid.*

November 9.—Monday, a golden eagle was winged, and with some difficulty secured, by Mr. Davis, of Waterton, near Blyth-Link-house, Northumberland. It was $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet long, and the extent of its wings nearly 7 feet.—*Ibid.*

November 13.—The Phrenological society of Newcastle, was formed and consisted of sixty members including a considerable number of medical men.—*Ibid.*

November 14.—Was published in Berwick, the first number of a Newspaper, entitled the Berwick and Kelso Warder.—*Ibid.*

November 17 and 18.—During the nights of these days there were most splendid displays of the Aurora Borealis. On the evening of the latter in particular, the number—variety of conformation—length of stretch across the horizon, and brilliancy of these Northern lights

were such as have seldom, if ever been seen in this part of the country. They were not of the quickly flitting character generally attributed to them, but they remained stationary in many instances for minutes, varying, indeed, at different points in the line of light which they marked out, in the extent of their brilliancy, but still preserving nearly the same place.—*Local Papers.*



THE following distressing accident occurred at Burdon Main colliery, situated a little to the westward of North Shields, on the 19th of November, 1835. On the afternoon of that day (Thursday), a little after three o'clock, some of the workmen in the Low Main seam of the middle pit were alarmed by what they too truly knew to be an explosion of foul air in the adjoining workings, and on proceeding to the spot they found that, as a deputy named James Campbell, was going his usual rounds to see that everything was safe, an accumulation of foul air had taken fire at his candle and produced the melancholy accident by which eleven human beings were instantly deprived of existence. The mine, it appeared, from what transpired on the inquest, had always been so uncommonly free from foul air that the men invariably wrought with candles—a lamp never having been used in the workings. Unlike the generality of such accidents, the origin of the present explosion was soon discovered; it was found to have been caused by the negligence, or occasional absence of a boy named Arkley, only ten years of age, and who was one of the sufferers. This poor boy had neglected to close a door, which it was his sole business to keep shut, and which, even by standing open fifteen minutes, would occasion a sufficient accumulation of foul air to cause the explosion. The force of the blast had been so exceedingly powerful that nothing seemed to have been able to resist its progress. Some of the stoppings were blown down; the trap door above mentioned, together with the brick walling on each side of it, was likewise carried to a considerable distance; and even the props, which present very little resisting surface, were in several instances swept away. Three men, and eight young men and boys, fell victims to the scorching flame, or died from the effects of after-damp. Fortunately, when the explosion had proceeded to this extent, its ravages ceased; and on reaching the adjoining district, the good air speedily exhausted the desolating power of the blast, though the noise and the rushing wind which it occasioned soon indicated to the other miners what had happened. No time was lost in endeavouring to get at the poor sufferers; and at considerable risk from the after-damp, the whole of the bodies

were in a short time removed. In the course of the investigation, before the coroner, that gentleman observed to Mr. Johnson of Willington, that there was one circumstance which had frequently occurred to him, and that was the impropriety of trusting these doors to such very young boys, when so very much depended—both of life and property—upon their care and attention, and enquired whether it would not be greatly to the advantage of coal-owners to employ men of thirty or forty years of age—men who knew what was committed to their charge—to take care of such doors, supposing even an extra sum was given to them for doing it. Mr. Johnson said it was a subject which had frequently engaged the attention of viewers and others having the management of coal-mines; that they had no means of bettering themselves. They had invariably found that boys from ten to fourteen years of age were far more tractable, attentive, and obedient than boys of a more advanced age. They had tried old men, and they found them worse than even the boys—not that they were wilfully negligent—but they lost their faculties and dozed away their time in sleep; and he did not think they could find a man of middle age who would undertake to fill such an office; there was not one about the colliery who would not think himself degraded in such a situation. The coroner thought it was a pity that they did not see more clearly what was for their own good. Verdict accidental death.

—*Local Papers.*

1835 (Nov. 21).—A little before eleven o'clock at night the corn and hay stacks belonging to Mr. Martin Brown, at Scaffold Hill, near Long Benton, were discovered to be on fire. When the alarm was



The CHANCEL DOOR of the CHURCH of LONG BENTON (1842).

given, Mr. Brown and his family were in bed. The neighbouring farmers and their servants were speedily on the spot, and rendered the most active assistance. The fire engines from the Grand Allies and Backworth collieries were also in speedy attendance, but the fire had then reached such a height, that the whole of the stacks were consumed, with the exception of one of wheat in the barn, and it was only by the greatest exertions on the part of those present that the buildings were saved with comparatively trifling injury. Mr. Brown's loss amounted to the value of 5 wheat stacks, 5 of oats, 2 of hay, and 1 of tares, and no part of the property insured, which amounted to £200. The fire was occasioned by some sparks from the chimney of the herd's house adjoining.—*Local Papers*.

1835.—Bethel chapel (Independent), North Shields, founded. The register of births and baptisms extending from 1835 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

November 21.—In consequence of the great quantity of rain which fell on this and the preceding day, the river Tyne rose very suddenly, overflowed its banks, and covered the low fields from near Ryton to the Redheugh. Some men, at the risk of their lives, saved a considerable number of sheep, but many others were swept off the haughs, called the Hassocks, and drowned; other damage was done to the crops and buildings, but not to any great extent.—*Local Papers*.

November.—This month, came into operation the "The Tyne-mouth Literary and Philosophical Institution." The North Shields Subscription Library having for some time been but feebly supported, the committee at length deemed it advisable to summon a meeting to consider of the best means of reviving it. At this meeting, which was held on the 15th of the preceding month, the debt upon the library was liquidated by a few generous and public spirited individuals, and the ground left clear for new and vigorous measures. Another meeting was held on the 28th, John Fenwick, esq., of Preston ville, in the chair, when the institution was fully formed, and its objects declared to be—1st. A library of circulation and reference. 2nd. A museum, consisting of Philosophical apparatus and preparations for illustrating popular lectures; of objects in Natural History, and curiosities of all kinds, domestic, foreign, literary, &c. 3rd. Popular lectures on subjects of interest in literature and science. The rules and regulations of the institution were then read and agreed to; and in addition to the members of the former library, many others were announced. Forty guineas had been collected for the purchase of apparatus, and several gentlemen of talent and respectability offered their assistance in the supplying of papers to be read at the meetings of the members.—*Ibid.*

1835 (Nov. 23).—Coal was first shipped from South Hetton colliery at Hartlepool, the railway being opened on the main line to that colliery as well as to Thornley. There were from 30 to 40 sail of ships in the harbour at the time.—*Local Papers*.

November 24.—Tuesday, a slight explosion of inflammable gas, took place in Monkwearmouth colliery, by which one man was severely burnt in the body, arms, legs, and face, and two others in the arms and face. The accident was supposed to have been occasioned by a fall of stone, followed by an eruption of gas, which ignited on reaching the candles of the workmen.—*Ibid.*

November 25.—A most desperate attempt to escape was made by three convicts in Newcastle gaol, of the names of Rogers, Sterrit, and Leggett. About 7 o'clock, Smith, the turnkey, was summoning them from the day room to the usual night apartment, and whilst they were going up stairs, Leggett seized a long brush, with a violent blow of which, he cut the turnkey's head. Smith, though stunned, was not incapable of giving an alarm, and assistance was soon got by which the three desperadoes were heavily ironed. The attack was no doubt a preliminary step to an escape, for on searching the room, they had left, there was found the table broken up and their bedding converted into a rope about 40 feet long.—*Ibid.*

November 26.—Saturday, an inquest was held at Redlees, in the parish of Alwinton, in the county of Northumberland, before Thomas Adams Russell, esq., coroner, on view of the body of Mr. James Douglass, aged 67 years, a Highland stock farmer, residing at that place. It appeared in evidence before the inquest, that the deceased had left his home about two o'clock on the Thursday preceding, with two friends, on business in that neighbourhood. Blind Burn was the last place they were at, and left there in the evening, and it being very rainy and dark, and a thick fog setting down upon the hills, a person guided them so far over the Feld. After leaving them, they lost their way; the two persons with the deceased got their way to the Redlees that night, and told the shepherds that their master was lost upon the Feld. They immediately went in search of him, and found him the following morning lying at the foot of a precipice, from 60 to 70 yards high, called Birkey Shank Hill, where he had gone over with his horse; both were quite dead. The deceased was an eccentric character, usually calling himself by the initials of his name "J. D.," and was well known and much respected in that part of the country. Verdict—Accidental death.—*Ibid.*

November 28.—Saturday, the new bridge at Alston was opened to the public, though not quite completed.—*Ibid.*

November 30.—Omnibuses commenced running every hour between

Newcastle, and Sunderland, in celebration of which the proprietors and a party of their friends, about thirty in number, sat down to an excellent dinner at Kay's Hotel, Sunderland. The scene was enlivened by the presence of the Newcastle and Gateshead Subscription Band.—*Local Papers.*

1835.—Independent chapel Howdon pans, founded. The register of baptisms, 10 entries, extending from 1835 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

Nov.—This month the Newcastle and North of England Insurance Company, with a capital of £300,000, was established. After an existence of about two years, the interest of the company was sold to the proprietors of the York and London company.—*Local Papers.*

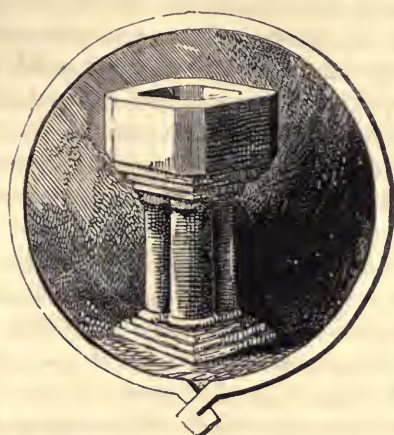
November.—A hare being severely pressed by a dog, took refuge in a house in Milburn place, North Shields, by dashing through the window, to the no small terror of the inmates, who were seated at breakfast. After a short chase round the room poor puss was secured.—*Ibid.*

December 1.—The authorities of the extensive parish of Monkwearmouth, met at nine o'clock in the morning for the purpose of "riding the boundaries," a duty that had not been performed for the period of forty two years.—*Ibid.*

December 1.—About 2 o'clock on the afternoon of this day, Tuesday, as Thomas, son of Thomas Anderson, of Amble, about eleven years of age, was going on an errand to Warkworth, he passed two strange boys by the river side playing, one about sixteen, the other about his own age; they followed and overtook him, the older one urged his brother (as is supposed) and the boy Anderson to fight; the latter naturally of a timid disposition, would not, and used every means in his power to escape from them, but in vain; the young villain threatening that if he did not fight, he would do for him, and took advantage at a part of the road cut away by the river, pounced upon him and plunged him over a precipice into the river, at the time flooded, and nearly high water, of course very deep, saying, "there now," they immediately ran across the fields and got clear off, leaving him to drown. He very miraculously got out of the river, assisted, as is supposed, by the current setting towards the shore, and a tin can, with a close lid, in his hand, would occasion a buoyance. The young villains spoke the Scotch dialect, and were supposed to belong to some travelling potters, as they had been collecting bones.—*Ibid.*

December 4.—The Drury-lane News-room, in Newcastle, was opened.—*Ibid.*

December 5.—At the Moot-hall, Castle Garth, on the above day, Thomas Lightford, a pitman in the employment of the rev. R. H.



The FONT of the OLD CHAPEL of SOUTH GOSFORTH,
restored from the fragments seen in 1840.

Brandling, the owner of Gosforth colliery, was brought before Charles John Bigge, esq., a magistrate for the county of Northumberland, charged with misconduct towards his employer, in acting contrary to his instructions and those of his agents. In certain districts of the colliery the pillars of coal formerly left to support the roof of the mine were now being worked off or taken away, the effects of removing which pillars producing what is termed "a goafe," or large space beyond the working walls, which it is impossible to ventilate thoroughly; a strong current of pure air is carried round by the face of the pillars of coal where the men are working, which receives, without any material deterioration, the regular discharge of carbonated hydrogen gas from the goafe, but in addition to this regular supply, on any diminution in the pressure of the atmospheric current (as indicated by a fall in the barometer) a great increase in the discharge invariably takes place, which continues until the foul air in the goafe re-establishes an equilibrium with the atmosphere. There is likewise occasionally a sudden eruption of gas from the goafe caused by the shrinking or falling in of the strata above, which materially lessens the space of the goafe, and produces an instantaneous outburst of "foulness." To guard against those sudden discharges of gas, safety-lamps are exclusively used in those parts of the mine where the men are engaged in working the pillars, as also those into which the air is conveyed after quitting the pillar districts. On the morning previous to this day, the viewer, Mr. Matthew Liddell, after examining some of the whole mine districts, proceeded to the district where the prisoner was employed as a "putter," where the men are very extensively employed in pillar working. Mr. Liddell was then informed by the

deputy (who had the superintendence of that part of the mine under the overman) that the prisoner had, a few minutes before, unscrewed the top from off one of the safety-lamps, by which the lives of all the men and lads employed in that part of the mine (about 70 in number) were placed in imminent peril. Mr. Liddell caused the man to be brought before the magistrate, who sentenced him to three months imprisonment and hard labour in the house of correction at Tyne-mouth, expressing a hope that no colliery-agent would ever again allow him, after such conduct, to work in the pits: the possible consequences of such negligence was dreadful to contemplate, and it did not in the least lessen his offence, the fact of the mine being at the time free from any dangerous admixture of gas, as the prisoner could be no judge of its state.—*Local Papers.*

1835 (Dec. 8).—The corporation of Newcastle perambulated the new boundaries of the borough, according to the Corporation Reform Act, which comprise the Westgate, Elswick, Jesmond, Heaton, and Byker. These townships now constitute part of the town and county of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and are under the jurisdiction of the town authorities and its civil and criminal courts, an alteration of great importance to the district. At ten o'clock in the morning, the company assembled on the Sandhill, with the right worshipful John Lionel Hood, esq. mayor, the town clerk, the sheriff, the stewards of the incorporated companies, and several gentlemen, on horseback, in number, upwards of one hundred, and returned to the Sandhill about three o'clock. Some of the horsemen were thrown from their seats, but no accident of any moment occurred.—*Ibid.*

December 16.—In consequence of doubts having been entertained whether Sunderland was a corporation entitled to the benefit of the Corporation Reform Act, the opinion of the attorney general was taken upon the point, and he replied in the affirmative. He also gave it as his opinion, that the duties of chief officer, for carrying the provisions of that act into effect, devolved, as a matter of right upon the freemen. In consequence of this opinion, a requisition, very numerously signed, was presented to B. Ogden, esq., the senior freeman, soliciting him to act as chief officer on the occasion; but in consequence of his age and indisposition, he politely declined the honour, as did also Messrs B. Bray, C. Bramwell, and T. Parker, the next three in succession to Mr. Ogden. Mr. Spoor, however, the next freeman in seniority, acceded to the wishes of the requisitionists, and a public meeting was held on the above day, A. Wright, esq., in the chair, at which the thanks of the burgesses were voted to Mr. Spoor, and a committee was appointed to secure the benefits of the Reform Act to the borough.—*Ibid.*

1835 (Dec. 17).—Workmen commenced filling up the deep dean on the eastern side of the Barras bridge, Newcastle.—*Local Papers*.

December 17.—Thursday night about twelve o'clock, a fire was discovered in the soda water manufactory of Mr. Thwaites, Bird and Bush yard, Pilgrim-street, which burnt with great fury, and the whole building was soon in flames, but the prompt arrival of the Newcastle and North British engines, soon got the better of the devouring element.—*Ibid*.

December 21.—A fire was discovered in a stable adjoining the farm house of Mr. William Taylor, of Nettlesworth hall, about four miles north from Durham, which was subdued by the assistance of some of the inhabitants of Plawsworth, and a good supply of water, though not until the stable was consumed, and the consequent death of four valuable horses; and on Thursday morning, the 24th, on one of the men leaving the house after breakfast, he discovered that every one of Mr. Taylor's stacks were in a blaze. A message was immediately sent to Durham for the fire engines, but before they arrived or other assistance could be obtained, the entire stock in the yard was consumed, consisting of seventeen wheat and oat stacks, one pea stack, and a hay stack. A thrashing machine was also burnt, besides great injury being done to the house and other premises. The total loss was estimated at £1000, only a small portion of which was insured. No doubt existed that both fires were the work of incendiaries.—*Ibid*.

December 22.—The lord bishop of St. Davids consecrated the new church at Stockton-on-Tees. The mayor, the recorder, and corporation, with a numerous body of clergy and gentry, walked in procession from the town hall to the church, which was completely filled both on the ground and gallery floors, and the solemnity and interest of the ceremony commanded the utmost attention of the whole. The building was from a design of Mr. Green of Newcastle, architect, and reflects the greatest credit upon his judgment and taste.—*Ibid*.

December 24.—A public meeting was held in the Guild hall, Newcastle, to take into consideration the melancholy and distressing situation in which were placed the crews of ten Greenland ships, which were then beset in the ice at Davis' straits,* and to co-operate with a committee of gentlemen at Hull, in raising a fund by public subscription to forward the sailing of an expedition for their aid, captain James Ross, R. N. who had volunteered to take the command. For this purpose one ship (the Cove) had been offered to

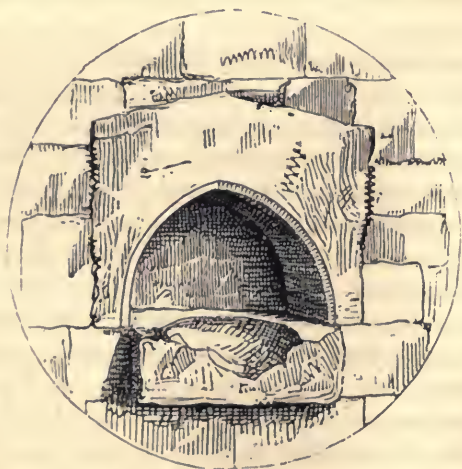
* Two of these vessels, the Lady Jane, and the Grenville Bay, belonged to the port of Tyne, and a third, the Norfolk, to Berwick upon Tweed.

and accepted by government, and the admiralty agreed to commission her, to fill her with stores and provisions, and to pay and pension the men from the different ports who should volunteer to form her crew. The whole of the resolutions were carried unanimously, and a separate subscription was commenced on behalf of the wives and families of the seamen who were detained in the ice.—*Local Papers*.

1835 (December).—Died, this month, in Carpenter-street, South Shields, aged 100 years, Cecelia Russell, many years employed in the salt-pans there.—*Ibid*.

December 24.—This month a market for hides and skins was established in Newcastle, and the first market was held on the above day.—*Ibid*.

December 25.—A beautiful piece of road leading from Westgate-street, and commencing on the west side of the hospital of St. Mary the Virgin, to the Infirmary, was opened. The Subscription band of music under the direction of Mr. Hudson, played in the front; a chariot, in which were Mr. Pearson, the surveyor, Mr. Dobson, the corporation architect, Mr. Dawson and Mr. R. Featherston, followed; after which came the railway coach and five or six other coaches. The day was pleasant and thousands of spectators attended, although it had not been announced above two hours that it would be opened publicly.—*Ibid*.



PISCINA or STOUP at the East end of the North aisle of the CHAPEL of the HOSPITAL of ST. MARY V., WESTGATE, NEWCASTLE. Removed 1844.

CHAPTER XII.



MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.



T Newcastle, the first election of town councillors under the new Corporation Reform Act, took place on Saturday the 26th of December, 1835, at the respective polling places, and on Monday the 28th the result was announced in the Guildhall, by J. L. Hood, esq., the returning officer. The announcement was appointed for twelve o'clock at noon, but, such was the anxiety of the friends of the respective candidates, and, indeed, of the public generally, to learn the result, the hall was crowded considerably before that time. At twelve o'clock his worship, the mayor, took his place on the bench, and said he now appeared before them to discharge the last duty which devolved upon him as mayor, namely to announce to the meeting the successful candidates in the election of proper persons to act as town councillors under the new Municipal Reform Bill. His worship then read the return of the several wards, of which the following is a copy:—

ST. NICHOLAS'S WARD.—John Fife, Addison L. Potter, Thomas Doubleday, Robert Robinson, George Boyd, and John Nichol.

ST. JOHN'S WARD.—James Hodgson, E. Charnley, J. R. Featherston, Isaac Burrell, George Bargate, and Abraham Dawson.

ALL SAINTS' EAST WARD.—Stephen Lowrey, Joseph Crawhall, Anthony Easterby, Henry Shield, Robert Rayne, and William Wright.

ALL SAINTS' WEST WARD.—James Sillick, John Spedding, William B. Proctor, Joshua Johnson, Benjamin Bradshaw, and Alexander Reed.

ST. ANDREW'S NORTH WARD.—Dr. Headlam, R. P. Philipson,

Thomas Bell, Edward Lowrey, Thomas Dunn, and James Archbold.

ST. ANDREW'S SOUTH WARD.—Charles John Bigge, John L. Hood, John Brandling, Henry Bell, Anthony Nichol (Spital tongues), and C. Myers.

WESTGATE WARD.—James Finlay, Joseph Lamb, and George Thomas Dunn.

JESMOND WARD.—Robert Plummer, John Ridley, and Armorer Donkin.

The chairman then said, that previous to leaving that situation, he would take the opportunity of thanking his friends and the inhabitants of the town generally for the confidence they had reposed in him, and the kindness they had shewn him whilst in the discharge of the duties with which they had entrusted him. If, by his conduct in that situation, he had gained their good opinion, he was amply repaid for all the trouble which he had experienced during the fifteen months which he had filled the office of their chief magistrate; and as he had had the honour of being placed in the new town council, he would beg leave to thank his friends for that honour, and to assure them that he would continue to exert himself to the utmost in the promotion of every measure which would be for the benefit and prosperity of the town. In conclusion Mr. Hood observed, that during the time that he was associated with the old corporation, they had done the best they could for the town, and he, on his part, was determined still to do so—with these assurances, and a renewal of his thanks, he would cordially bid them farewell. Several of the members of the council then returned thanks for their respective elections, and stated their determination to do every thing in their power for the maintenance of the prosperity of the town—and for carrying out all the purposes contemplated by the new Municipal Reform Bill. Mr. Potter moved the thanks of the meeting to the chairman, which was carried by acclamation, and the company dispersed. On Thursday the 31st the councillors assembled in the mayor's chamber, and after subscribing the necessary declaration, and taking the oaths prescribed in the act, they proceeded to the election of the following gentlemen as aldermen, viz.—Chas. John Bigge, Dr. Headlam, J. Spedding, Jas. Losh, Geo. Thos. Dunn, Anthy. Easterby, Col. Bell, Arm. Donkin, John Fife, A. L. Potter, Thos. Batson, John Ridley, John Fenwick, and Jas. Hodgson.

Chas. John. Bigge, esq., mayor,* Thomas Dunn, esq., sheriff.

For some time previous to the elections, a great degree of excitement was exhibited in Newcastle. Several meetings were held in the

* Election, January 1. 1836.

various parishes and wards, for the purpose of nominating proper persons to perform the duties which would devolve upon town councillors; a great number of addresses from the candidates of the several wards appeared in the different newspapers; many appeals to the electors were also made by means of handbills and printed circulars; and upon the whole appearances in many respects resembled those of an election for members of parliament.



QUALLY great was the excitement manifested by all parties in the borough of Gateshead for several days previous to the election of councillors, which took place there on the same day, when the following gentlemen were chosen for the respective wards, viz.—

EAST WARD.—George Hawks, James Hymers, John Abbot, John Colman, Benjamin Matchett,

and John Greene.

WEST WARD.—James Pollock, Thomas Cummins, John Barras, John Fairbairn, Edmund Graham, and John Bell Johnson.

SOUTH WARD.—George Sowerby, Thomas Wilson, William Henry Brockett, Robert Davis, Michael Hall, and Robert Robson.

On Thursday the election of aldermen for Gateshead took place, when the following were elected :—

EAST WARD.—John Abbot, and George Hawks.

WEST WARD.—John Barras, and James Pollock.

SOUTH WARD.—Michael Hall, and Thomas Wilson.

George Hawks, esq., mayor.*



UNDERLAND.—The election of town councillors for this borough was conducted with much interest and good order. A band of music, and a display of silk banners bearing inscriptions paraded the town at intervals during the day; though much excitement prevailed, not a single instance of a breach of the peace occurred. The names of the councillors were proclaimed at the Town hall on Tuesday, December 29, by Mr. Spoor, the chief officer, and were received with three cheers. They were as follow.—

MONKWEARMOUTH WARD.—James Allison, Cooper Abbs, Thomas Speeding, Matthew Robson, the younger, George Wilkin Hall, and George Hudson.

WEST WARD.—Emerson Muschamp, Andrew White, Barnabas

* Election, January 1. 1836

Sharp, Philip Laing, Henry Scott (of Southwick), and John Gordon Black.

BRIDGE WARD.—John Coull Carr, John Hopper, William Reid Clanny, John Hutchinson, Errington Bell Ord, and William Carr.

SAINT MICHAEL'S WARD.—Richard White, Robert Burdon Cay, John Lotherington, James Vint, Andrew Godfrey Rahn, and William Blackett.

BISHOPWEARMOUTH WARD.—Andrew White, Thomas Marwood, the younger, George Booth, Robert Spoor, Thomas Brown, the younger, and John Atkin.

SUNDERLAND WARD.—John Barry, the younger, Joseph Lee, Thomas Taylor, William Kirk, the younger, Jeremiah Sowerby, and William Boyes Walker.

EAST WARD.—Richard Spoor, William Nicholson, Thomas Reed, the younger, Thomas Reed (Nicholson street), Robert Dixon, and William French.

On Thursday the following gentlemen were elected Aldermen of Sunderland:—

EAST WARD.—Richard Spoor, and Thomas Reed, jun.

WEST WARD.—Barnabas Sharp, and Philip Laing.

SUNDERLAND WARD.—William Kirk, jun., and Thomas Taylor.

BISHOPWEARMOUTH WARD.—Thomas Brown, jun., and John Atkin.

BRIDGE WARD.—William Reid Clanny, M. D., and J. C. Carr.

MONKWEARMOUTH WARD.—James Allison, and C. Abbs.

SAINT MICHAEL'S WARD.—R. White, and John Lotherington.

TOWN CLERK.—John Pexall Kidson.

Andrew White, esq., mayor.*



HE election for the town council, in the city of Durham, excited a good deal of interest and bustle during the day. The polling took place before the mayor and town clerk. There was little or no canvassing, and the election fell on the following persons:—

SOUTH WARD.—Thomas Greenwell, Edward Shipperdson, John Trotter, John Burrell, Robert Robson, and George Appleby.

NORTH WARD.—John Marshall, Robert Ovington, R. Hoggett, R. Stafford, George Harle, and John Bramwell.

ST. NICHOLAS WARD.—H. Marshall, G. Robson, W. Rippon, John Henderson, Wm. Darling, and Wm. Greene. On Thursday, the following gentlemen were chosen to be the aldermen of the corporation

* Election, January 1, 1836.

of Durham :—Messrs. J. Burrell, Dr. Trotter, J. Bramwell, Robert Robson, H. Marshall, and A. W. Hutchinson.

Thos. Greenwell, esq., mayor.*



ORPETH election of councillors took place on the same day, and after the close of the poll, the court adjourned to 12 o'clock on Monday, when the Bailiff, Mr. Railston, declared the choice of electors to have fallen on the following gentlemen :—Anthony Charlton, John Creighton, Richard Lewins, Thomas Jobling, Dr. Hedley, George Hood, Wm. Clark, Robert Blakey, John Bates, Robert Hopper, Dr. Trotter, and Wm.

Singleton. Anth. Charlton returned thanks for himself and colleagues, and moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Railston for his impartial conduct in the chair, which was seconded by Mr. Creighton.

Anthony Charlton, esq., mayor.*



T Stockton on December 26th, the following were elected councillors :—Christopher Lodge, Robert Lamb, Christopher Martin, William Robinson, Thomas Walker, Robinson Watson, Joshua Byers, George Walton, Thomas Jennett, Robert Jordison, Joseph Wade, Samuel Braithwaite, George Applegarth, John Robinson Walker, William Skinner, sen., Christopher Coales, Thomas Heavise, and Joseph Claxton. On the 31st

the councillors elected the following from their own body to be aldermen :—William Skinner, sen., Robert Jordison, Christopher Lodge, Robert Lamb, Robinson Watson, and Thomas Walker.

William Skinner, sen., esq., mayor.*



ERWICK-UPON-TWEED.—In this as in the other boroughs, preliminary meetings of the burgesses were held and lists of candidates proposed. The following are the names of the councillors elected :—

NORTH WARD.—John Wilson, George K. Nicholson, George Gilchrist, John Clay, Thomas Chartres, jun., and John Tait.

SOUTH WARD.—John Millar Dickson, Robert Marshall, William Marshall, Richard Reavely, William Young, and Robert Ramsay.

MIDDLE WARD.—George Bogue, Joseph Hubback, George John-

ston, M. D., Patrick Mole, Alexander Moor, and Thomas Cockburn.

On Thursday the 31st, the following gentlemen were elected aldermen:—William Wilson, George Patterson, Thomas Thompson, Charles Robson, John Dewar, and Thomas Bogue.

John Wilson, esq. mayor, John Pratt, esq. sheriff.*

Subsequent elections were held in each of the above boroughs to supply the vacancies occasioned by the election of councillors to the office of aldermen.—*Local Papers.*

1835 (Dec. 31).—A gold watch was lost in a field near Cramlington; the field was soon after sown, twice harrowed, once rolled, and twice weeded, and the watch was found on the 15th of Sept. 1836, in no wise injured.—*Ibid.*

Same day, the exchange clock at Sunderland, which had been out of use for nearly ten years, was set in action, having been repaired and furnished with a new bell. The clock has four dials, three of which are new; they are all of glass, and at night are lighted with gas.—*Ibid.*

1836 (Jan. 1).—The foundation stone of a chapel was laid in Linskill-street, North Shields, for the Methodist New Connexion.—*Ibid.*

January 5.—Tuesday, a gentleman residing in Bishopwearmouth found a pin in an egg which he was eating. A few weeks previously three hens, belonging to the same gentleman, died in one night, and on one of them being opened, a pin was found in the intestines.—*Ibid.*

January 6.—Wednesday, the Grenville bay whaler, arrived in the Tyne, an event which was hailed as a joyous occasion at Tynemouth, and North and South Shields. The colours of the Loyal Standard and Good Design Associations were hoisted at their offices, and the sands at the low lights and South Shields were crowded with spectators, who evinced the pleasure they felt by heartily cheering the vessel as she gallantly sailed up the river. The Grenville bay had three fish and about seventy tons of oil. Captain Taylor and his crew, generally were in good health, considering the distressing privations they had endured. The cook unfortunately fell overboard on the passage home. The crew were put upon full allowance on the vessel getting clear of the ice on the 16th December, and their remained on arrival, about a ton and a half of beef and pork, and sixteen cwt. of bread, which were calculated to support the crew, on short allowance, till the beginning of May. Captain Taylor stated, that after the 11th November, the Grenville bay, Lady Jane, and Norfolk, continued to drift southward, having the Abram in sight. On the 20th, saw the land, distant about forty miles, in lat. 64, The

* Election, January, 1, 1836.

prevailing winds being easterly, they continued to drift southward and set shoreward, and on the 8th December they were in the mouth of Hudson's bay, Resolution island bearing east 15 or 20 miles.—They were then carried by the current to Green island, and proceeded a considerable way in Ungava bay; but, very fortunately, a current swept them along the land and round Batten's island, and carried them entirely out of Hudson's straits, where they were apprehensive at one time they would have to winter. There were frequent partial openings in the park of ice, and the ships took advantage to proceed eastward, and heavy swells aided their escape; but the vessels received some heavy blows from the ice. When the Grenville bay got into the water on the 16th, the Lady Jane was not in sight, having set by the current to the westward the preceding day. This was in latitude 58 50, and distant from the Labrador coast 30 miles. Several whales were seen in about lat. 61 30, and though the attempt was made to take them, it was unsuccessful, owing, probably, to the unfit state the crews were in for fishing.—*Local Papers.*

1836 (Jan. 6).—A fatal accident occurred at the Down's pit, Hetton colliery. Philip Snooks and Matthew Rutherford, coal hewers, got into the loop to descend into the mine to work, when they fell to the bottom, a depth of 180 fathoms, in consequence of the loop not being fast to the chain. Two masons who were working in the shaft at the time providentially escaped.—*Ibid.*

January.—According to an admeasurement by the town surveyor, the streets of Newcastle-upon-Tyne were found, at this period, to extend upwards of twenty eight miles in length.—*Ibid.*

January 9.—The Norfolk whaler, of Berwick, arrived off that port. Daylight in the morning discovered the long looked-for vessel anchored in the bay. The intelligence spread rapidly over the town, diffusing in its progress unalloyed gratification, and all classes were seen in groups travelling to the pier and ramparts to obtain a confirmation of the report. The Norfolk left the ice on the 13th of December, and arrived at Orkney on January 8th. The crew were free from disease, but generally very weak; one man belonging to Kirkwall died during the time she was locked in the ice.—They had been on short allowance from about the middle of October.—*Ibid.*

This month, Mr. W. Martin of Wallsend constructed a safety lamp for mines, for which he claimed the invention. It was very ingeniously contrived, so as to be extinguished when the atmosphere had got to an inflammable pitch.—*Ibid.*

January 16.—Died, at Monkend, near Croft, aged 85, Charles Colling, esq., the original breeder of the Durham short-horned cattle,

with the celebrity of which breed his name is inseparably connected.—*Local Papers.*

1836 (Jan. 12).—A public meeting was held at Burnop-field, for the purpose of establishing a Literary and Mechanical Institution, Mr. Hutt, M. P., for Hull, in the chair, when resolutions were passed, and very great interest was manifested by the assembled meeting.—*Ibid.*

The reformed town council of the Borough of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, at a meeting held on Thursday, January 21, 1836, decided, by a majority of 25 to 21, that the mansion house, on the system heretofore practised, should be discontinued; that the mayor should receive £1000 yearly, for the purpose of keeping up certain restricted hospitalities, &c.; that the judges of assize should be lodged at the expence of the corporation, in a house either taken, built, or purchased; and that the mayor should reside in his own house, or have the option of dwelling in the house aforementioned, during his mayoralty, excepting during the period of the stay of the judges. The judges have however, since this decision, been accommodated with private lodgings, taken for the time, in a house in Eldon square, the proposed official dwelling, not having been taken, built, or purchased; in consequence, the mayors under the new act, have never been able to avail themselves of the privilege of partial residence therein granted to them by the council in January this year.—*Ibid.*

January 23.—About three o'clock on the morning, the house of Mr. Dixon, glazier, Tyne street, Newcastle, was discovered to be on fire, by Mrs. Marshall, a washerwoman, residing nearly opposite. The flames raged with such fury, that the whole house was in a few minutes in a blaze.—Mr. Dixon, his wife, and six of his children,



GLASSHOUSE BRIDGE, FOOT OF TYNE STREET (1844).

being unable from the smoke to make their escape by the door, got out by the window. He had eight children, and at first hoped their lives had been preserved. However, two fine girls, one thirteen, and another nine, who, it is supposed, were on their way to their room anxious to get their clothes on, unhappily perished before their situation was known! The furniture and stock in trade were altogether destroyed. The building was burnt to the ground. The engines of the different fire offices were in attendance, but not till between four and five o'clock, and of course their services could only extend to the prevention of the houses on either side suffering the same fate. Mr. Dixon had £100 in the house, which together with the whole of the stock of oils varnishes &c. were totally destroyed. A subscription was commenced on behalf of Mr. Dixon and family, who bore the character of a worthy, respectable, and industrious tradesman, deserving of public sympathy. The house was insured in the Newcastle and North of England Insurance company's office. In connection with this melancholy event, the following incident is worthy of being recorded:—On the Monday after the fire, Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., paid a visit to the Broad and Crown glass works, of which he was the principal proprietor, and, according to custom, presented a sum of money among the workmen, to drink his health. This pleasure, however, they generously denied themselves, and applied the gift in aid of the subscription for their unfortunate neighbour, Mr. Dixon. This appropriation of the money having been made known to the worthy baronet, he was so much pleased with it, that he repeated his donation to them as a reward for their benevolent conduct.—*Local Papers.*

January 23.—During the whole of this day (Saturday), Newcastle and the northern district generally was visited with a violent storm of wind, from the south-west, which did considerable damage to the buildings in that and the neighbouring towns, by blowing down chimneys, unroofing houses, &c. A large chimney at Cowpen quay salt works was blown down, the buildings were unroofed, and the walls greatly damaged. At North Shields, the boats for some time were prevented crossing the river, and the roofs of several houses were very much injured by the chimneys falling. One fell on Mr. Spence's house, and went through the ceiling; fortunately none of the family were injured. A very large chimney fell on Mr. Peart's, the postmaster's house, carried in the roof and severely hurt one of the domestics. The new church which was nearly finished, suffered great damage; eight of the spires down to the basis, were thrown off; a part of them fell through the roof, and did considerable damage to the pews; the vestry chimney and cross fell on the chancel, and drove

the ceiling entirely in. Morpeth and the neighbourhood suffered considerably, a number of houses were partly unroofed, and a number of chimnies blown down. Meldon park, the splendid seat of Isaac Cookson, esq., was partly unroofed, and a great deal of glass broken. At Shawdon hall, the seat of Wm. Pawson, esq., a magnificent painted window was totally destroyed; and a woman was blown out of a cart, on Alnwick moor, and had her arm broken. Throughout the North and South Tyne, the storm raged with great fury. At Capheaton, walls were broken down, and trees of the largest dimensions were torn up by the roots, one of which falling upon Miss Isabella Robson, killed her upon the spot. At Newcastle, the steeple of St. John's church was partially blown down, and the windows of the Baptist chapel, Marlborough-cresecent, received considerable damage, and but for the prompt attention and active exertions of the joiners, who were sent for immediately on the circumstance being discovered, the probability is that the whole of the windows would have been blown out. About six o'clock in the evening, the chimney connected with the retorts at the gas works, was blown down, and fell upon the roof of the building, under which the workmen were at the time employed. At the moment of the accident, the greater portion of the roof, together with the west gable, gave way with a tremendous crash. Six of the men were covered by the ruins, all of whom were speedily extricated. From the mass of materials blown down, their escape with life is almost miraculous. Three of them however sustained considerable injury. Some portion of the rafters which fell upon the retorts having ignited, the violence of the wind caused great apprehension that the fire might extend; but to guard against such a calamity, sufficient length of pipe to command the whole premises was promptly attached to a fire-plug in the Manors, by the firemen of the Newcastle Insurance office. This important and judicious office was performed under the able direction of Mr. Woods, superintendent of the Newcastle Fire office, and one of the directors of the gas company, who was on the spot a few minutes after the accident. By this means an ample supply of water to command the whole premises, was obtained from pressure only. The engines of the North British and Sun fire offices were also speedily present, but fortunately their services were not required. The exertions of Mr. Mather and the men of the establishment, assisted by the firemen and others, merited the highest commendation.—*Local Papers.*

1836 (Jan. 26).—Tuesday, an inquest was held at the New inn, Hope town, near Darlington, on view of the bodies of Jane, the wife, and Margaret and William, the two infant children of William Lister,

the younger, whitesmith, of the above place, who, on Monday afternoon, were returning from Darlington market up the depot branch of the Stockton and Darlington railway, when four very heavily laden store waggons were coming down; the little girl stepped from the footpath into the main line, and the mother, with the other infant in her arms, stretched out her hand to rescue her from danger, when the waggons coming instantly upon them, knocked the mother down, and the whole three were run over and killed upon the spot. The jury after a careful investigation, returned a verdict of accidental death, with a deodand of 5s. on the waggon.

—*Local Papers.*

1836 (January).—A very substantial bridge, of good workmanship, was finished across the river Wansbeck, at the Morpeth grange ford. It was built by subscription, by Mr. Thomas King builder. This makes the fourth bridge erected across the river, all within a mile and a half.—*Ibid.*

January 28.—An awful explosion occurred in the celebrated Hetton colliery, near Houghton-le-Spring, by which twenty human beings lost their lives, and another was so dreadfully scorched as to afford but faint hopes of his recovery. Upwards of one hundred persons were employed in the pit at the time the explosion occurred, but owing to the accident being confined to one of the workings, namely the Downs pit, the number of victims was less than might have been expected. From the evidence adduced on the coroner's inquest it appeared that the explosion was caused by the negligence or inattention of a boy who had the charge of a trap door, and whose duty was to keep it shut as much as possible, in order that the part of the pit where the men were working might be purified by a current of air. From the evidence of several witnesses experienced in the management of mines, (including Mr. George Hunter, of Painshers, viewer to the marquess of Londonderry), there existed no doubt that the general ventilation of the pit was excellent. The whole of the evidence tended to shew that, had the men been working with the Davy lamp, instead of candles, no explosion would have occurred; but, it was stated that the men, even in situations where danger existed, had an antipathy to its use, because from candles they had a better light.—*Ibid.*

This month, Letters Patent were granted to Stephen Reed, esq., of Newcastle, for an improvement of the colliery corf-bow and hook; inventions meriting general adoption, not less for their perfect safety than simplicity. The hook is also well adapted for general purposes, on board ship, in dock-yards, warehouses, and in short, in all cases where cranes are used.—*Ibid.*

1836 (Jan. 29).—Died, at the advanced age of 91, William Scott, baron Stowell of Stowell park, in the county of Gloucester, D. C. L., F. R. S., and F. S. A., Master of the Faculties, and a member of the privy council.

Lord Stowell was born on the 17th of Oct. 1745, O. S. at Heworth in the county of Durham. His mother was Jane, daughter of Mr. Henry Atkinson, hoastman, and his father William Scott, a substantial coal-fitter and merchant residing in Love-lane, Newcastle. Owing to the rebellion that broke out in 1745, and the alarm then prevalent in Newcastle which had been fortified against the Pretender, his mother, when in an advanced state of pregnancy, was lowered in a basket from the town wall, into a boat which lay in waiting to convey her to Heworth, on the southern shore of the Tyne.* Here she was delivered of a boy and a girl, twins, William afterwards lord Stowell, and Barbara who died young. In consequence of this, Newcastle was deprived of the honour of being his birth-place, yet otherwise the circumstance was productive of good. It rendered him eligible when at Oxford for a Durham scholarship—and that was the stepping stone to his further honours. But the waters of Isis only watered the seeds that had already been sown in the fertile soil. At the Grammar school of Newcastle he



The CHANCEL of the CHAPEL of S. MARY V. NEWCASTLE. Used as the Grammar School.
 Sketched during its demolition in 1844.

* The less romantic, but perhaps more accurate, version of this story is that Mrs. Scott having in consequence of the excitement prevailing in Newcastle, removed to Heworth; the medical gentleman, who was summoned from Newcastle to attend her, descended the town wall in a basket, rather than lose the time necessary for obtaining the permission of the mayor to pass through the gates then closed.—*Twiss's life of Lord Eldon*, vol. 1. p. 27. 1st Ed.

received his early education, under the able tuition of the rev. Hugh Moises, a gentleman of high classical attainments, as well as possessed of the happy art of gaining the affections of his scholars. To the advice of this excellent man both lord Stowell and lord Eldon were indebted for being sent to Oxford. In 1761, William Scott was matriculated at that University, having gained a Durham scholarship at Corpus Christi College; and in Nov. 1764, he took his Bachelors Degree. In the following month he was elected Probationary Fellow of Oxford College; and further, one of the greatest compliments that could have been paid to his learning, he was at the age of 20 appointed College Tutor. In 1767 he took his Master's degree, and in 1772, May 30, he became B. C. L. having determined to follow the Civil Law as a profession. In the year 1774 he was elected Camden reader of Ancient History, vacant by the death of Mr. Warneford, and "never" says a writer in the Law Magazine "were the duties of the professorship so ably fulfilled since its first institution in 1662. His lectures are said to have been attended by the largest concourse of academics ever known, who were equally delighted with the classical eloquence of his style, the admirable arrangement of his subject and the luminous information conveyed by him. In these particulars they successfully competed with the course of lectures delivered by the Vinerian professor Blackstone, which they equalled (it would have been impossible to have done more) in popularity." Of Scott's merits in this office, both Dr. Parr and Gibbon have written in the highest terms of commendation.

In 1776, Scott withdrew from the arduous duties of Tutor and devoted himself more particularly to those duties which were happily blended with the enquiries of the professor. Until 1779 he remained at Oxford, but in that year he took the degree of D. C. L., and enrolled himself a member of the College of Doctors at Law practising in the Ecclesiastical and Admiralty Courts. Shortly after his first settling in the metropolis he became enrolled amongst the wits, in an age that could boast of Dr. Johnson, sir Wm. Jones, and sir Joshua Reynolds. With Johnson indeed, and sir Joshua Reynolds, he was soon on terms of sincere friendship which continued till the day of their death. In 1783 he was appointed registrar of the court of Faculties, and in 1788 he was selected by the bishop of London, to be judge of the consistory court. In the same year he was advanced to the lucrative office of advocate-general, and knighted. By a singular coincidence, his brother, sir John Scott, afterwards lord Eldon, received the honour of knighthood as solicitor-general, within two months of sir William, and in the same year they both took their seats at the board as privy councillors. In 1790, on the death of Dr.

Halifax, bishop of St. Asaph, he was chosen master of the Faculties, and in 1798, as a crowning honour, was created judge of the high court of admiralty.

Previous to this, in 1782, he married* his first wife, Anne Maria, eldest daughter and co-heiress of John Bagnall of Early court, Berkshire, by which marriage, besides acquiring a connection with the Portsmouth family, he became at a later period possessed of the family residence, near Reading: but his position at this time rendered him independent of the patronage of the great. On the death of sir Roger Newdigate, in 1780, he aspired to the representation of Oxford university, but here he met with powerful rivals. Sir William, then Mr. Jones, also declared himself a candidate, offering to forego the prospect of an Indian judgeship of £6000 a year as a trifle compared to the honour of the seat, and sir William Dolben, a country gentleman, also appeared in the field. The last proved the successful candidate, and in doing so verified the prediction of Dr. Johnson on the subject—"Did I tell you" (he writes to Mr. Thrale) "that Scott and Jones both offer themselves. They are struggling hard for what others think neither of them will obtain, the members of the convocation have always evinced a partiality in the abstract to a country gentleman above a lawyer, and for the elder to the younger man." Many years after this, however, sir William Scott obtained the object of his ambition. In 1784 he was returned to parliament for Downton, but was unseated on a scrutiny, and at the general election in 1790, he succeeded in representing that borough. When in parliament he confined his eloquence either to important occasions, or to matters in which the interests of the church were threatened with invasion; and in cases of the latter description he ever appeared as the church's warmest advocate. The act for amending the 21st of Henry VII. intitled "Spiritual persons abridged for having pluralities of livings or from taking of farms" was introduced and carried by him, as well as a measure for procuring a better legislative provision for stipendary curates, the foundation of a more useful act of lord

* The history of this successful advocate adds another example to the too common destiny which debars man from obtaining the object of his first strong affections. In earlier life he had entertained a deep passion for Miss Jane Reay, of Newcastle, the sister of his brother John's college friend and correspondent, H. U. Reay, esq.: but it was unrequited. The lady afterwards became the wife of Thomas Yorke, esq., of Halton place in the county of York. Lord Stowell, when an octogenarian, requested a common friend to enquire of Mrs. Yorke, if she would permit him to send her an engraving of himself which had then been just finished—thus evincing that he had not ceased to remember, and perhaps to "rue that they had ever met." The friend executed his commission; and the required permission was gracefully given, and the engraving accordingly presented.

Harrowby by which they were rescued from a state of degrading penury. At the age of 75 he was selected in 1820, on the meeting of the new parliament, to move Mr. Mannors Sutton into the chair, and this task he performed with a dignified grace that proved the propriety of the selection. But the eloquence of sir Wm. Scott, chaste and ornamental as it undoubtedly was in the senate, shone forth with a more powerful lustre in his own peculiar sphere on the judgment seat. It was then as a judge of the Consistory and Admiralty courts he gave those elaborate decisions which have raised his name as the greatest of English civilians, far above that of the learned Selden, and entitled his memory to the highest admiration, even on the western shores of the Atlantic. The nature of this work prevent our giving extracts from his judgments, we must refer our reader to the Ecclesiastical Reports of Haggard and Phillimore, and the Admiralty Reports of Robinson and Dodson. There, "in the former volumes especially, are concentrated some of the most beautiful specimens of clear reasoning and chastened style that can any where be found. Religion might select passages in them for her texts, and Philosophy discourse on them for her mottoes. They contain the *ipsissima verba* of the old man, eloquent; the best words in the best places." The judgment of sir Wm. Scott in *Dalrymple v. Dalrymple* as a specimen of composition, is perhaps equal to anything in the English language. Whilst the mode in which the grand relationship of marriage is treated is as beautiful as it is instructive. Of his Admiralty judgments, authorities the most distinguished have spoken in the highest terms. Grenville, Canning, and lord Mansfield were all unanimous in their opinions and declared that "Sir W. Scott was revered in every part of the world where a love of justice and equity prevailed." But further testimony if any were wanting may be found at the hands of foreigners. Lord Stowell printed for private distribution some copies of his judgments and sent one to the Admiralty judge of the United States. After acknowledging the present, this gentleman continued.—"In the excitement caused by the hostilities then raging between our countries, I frequently impugned your judgments, and considered them as severe and partial, but on a calm review of them, after a lapse of years, I am bound to confess my entire conviction both in their accuracy and equity. I have taken care that they shall form the basis of the Maritime Law of the United States, and I have no hesitation in saying they ought to do so in that of every civilized country in the world."

On the coronation of George IV., lord Eldon having been created an earl, sir W. Scott was raised to the peerage by the title of baron Stowell, a promotion that had for some time been expected; but in the

house of lords he spoke but seldom. His May of life was then in the sear and yellow leaf, and the hand of age was upon him; for some time longer however he continued on the bench, till, in 1828, having been for some time suffering from infirmity of eyes and other ailments, he retired into the calm seclusion of private life; and in doing so, it is almost needless to add, carried the esteem of all men with him. For a short period previous to his retirement sir Charles Robinson had been in the habit of delivering his decisions, and upon some occasions the counsel in different causes had been accustomed to read them for him. From this time till the day of his death, he principally resided at Early court, his seat in Berkshire, enjoying for a few years the pleasure of society and delighting all around him with his conversation, stored as it was with anecdote and information; but shortly before his death he suffered considerably in mind and body from the usual attendants on old age, and on Thursday the 26th of January, 1836, died without pain or consciousness after a few days' illness.

In 1813, lord Stowell then in his 65th year, had married a second wife, lady Louisa Katherine, third daughter and coheir of lord Howe, and widow of John Dennis Brown, marquis of Sligo. By this marriage he left no family, but by his first wife he had issue, Marianne (who married first, 1809, Thomas Townsend, esq., and secondly, 1823, Henry Viscount Sidmouth,) and died recently, and William, born March, 1794, who died during the life of his father.

"In his moral deportment" says the article before quoted "Lord Stowell was exemplarily correct, and a man to be loved in all the domestic relations. No one cherished more or took more delight in the sweet charities of private life—His name has vanished from the Peerage, he has left no son to transmit his honours—He had outlived his generation, and the candidates for noisy notoriety had concealed the retiring veteran from the stage. He has sunk into the grave, not unwept indeed, nor unhonoured, nor unsung, but with a less vivid expression of regret than if he had not exceeded the common sphere of human life. This is the natural penalty which extreme old age must be content to pay, and it would be idle to complain of it. But he has left a name which the proudest transmitter of hereditary rank might envy. The name of Scott, the title of lord Stowell, can never be forgotten."—*Law Magazine et alibi*.

1836 (Jan. 29).—At Berwick there was one of the most violent wind storms of which there was any recollection. About three o'clock the chimney of the rev. R. Balmer, in Golden square, fell on his chapel, which adjoins, and conveying with it a great portion of the roof, went through the ceiling, and broke down part of the gallery, making fearful havoc in the chapel. Every house whether old or new, in an

exposed situation, presented broken windows or damaged roofs. At Holy Island fully one half of the houses were injured; several were unroofed; the roof of the church was seriously damaged; and the sheet lead covering it, which in weight could be little less than three tons, was rolled together.—*Local Papers.*



HOLY ISLAND CHURCH (1836).

1836 (Feb. 6).—An impostor, named Isaac Edrehi, alias Sadi Ambusca, who at this time figured very conspicuously in Newcastle, ostentatiously going about, dressed in the Turkish costume, professing to be a Turkish merchant, and at the same time canvassing for subscribers to a work about to be published by his father, descriptive of an extraordinary river in the Holy land, was on this day committed to Durham gaol by the magistrates of Sunderland, for trial at the sessions, charged with snatching out of the hand of William Clough, bacon factor, a five pound note, whilst in the bar of the Golden Lion inn, at Sunderland, on the previous evening, with which he ran off, but was soon after apprehended. When about to be taken to Durham, in one of the coaches, hand-cuffed to a sailor, his grotesque appearance caused no small merriment to a crowd of spectators, who had assembled to witness his exit from the town. He was tried at the Durham spring assizes, and acquitted.—*Ibid.*

February 7.—Sunday, a new chapel belonging to the Methodist new connexion was opened at Sheriff hill, near Gateshead, when the liberal sum of 18*l* 2*s*. 6*d*. was collected.—*Ibid.*

February 12.—Died, Mr. Mark Scott, of Fawdon colliery, aged 49 years, where he had been situated upward of 25 years, and was much respected. He was about to resume his occupation as overman that morning about two o'clock, when he was driven into the

pit by the wind, which was blowing very strong at the time, and was precipitated to the bottom, a depth of about fifty fathoms.—*Local Papers.*

1836 (Feb. 16).—A dinner was given to a number of gentlemen by Mr. Joseph Armstrong, brewer, in the mash tub of an extensive brewery, which he had just completed in Hanover-square, Newcastle. The mash tub was covered within and without with green baize, and at half-past seven o'clock sixteen gentlemen sat down to an excellent dinner. At the conclusion of dinner the party removed to the dining-room, where an excellent dessert and wines were set out. The Tyne amateur band was in attendance, and played a number of tunes during the evening.—*Ibid.*

February 17.—On this day, Wednesday, and the previous evening, Newcastle and neighbourhood were visited with a tremendous hurricane from the N. and N.E. accompanied with heavy showers of snow and sleet; there was also a vivid flash of lightning, followed by a loud peal of thunder. A house in Percy street was unroofed, and a poor woman who was confined to her bed by sickness, severely injured by the falling materials. The river Tyne rose to an extraordinary height, overflowing its banks in several places, and causing considerable alarm in Shields harbour, by forcing several vessels from their moorings, but no damage of a serious nature was sustained. A high chimney, attached to the back part of the premises occupied by Mr. Richard Barker, jun., King street, North Shields, was blown down with a tremendous crash, passing through the roof and a floor beneath. A child, four years of age, though carried with the falling bricks from the higher to the lower rooms, providentially escaped with only a few slight scratches. At Sunderland, the wind being from the N.E., produced the highest tide ever remembered in that port, by the oldest inhabitants. At high water the tide was level with the quays, which, in many places, and for some time, were impassable. The shipping in the port was but slightly injured, but the damage suffered by the harbour was considerable. All the frame work at the north Pier end was washed away, with the engine erected thereon for driving the piles. An immense quantity of timber and other materials were washed away from off the Piers, and from the ship-building yards, part of which was ultimately saved, though much was carried out to sea. The south east end of the bond timber-yard, at Monkwearmouth, was washed down, but, with the exception of a few planks, the timber was preserved. The south Pier was also much injured; in one place it shrunk several inches, and the greatest part of the breast work at the Pier end was carried away. The stones at the east point weighed about five tons each, and

were secured with cement and strong iron clamps, yet three of them were washed down in one mass, and the whole body of the stone clamped together was removed from the place where it stood to a distance of nearly fifteen feet. One of the life-boats and three cobsles which were moored at the launch were broken to pieces by being ran foul of by a brig; and the boat house (an erection about seven or eight feet high, near the old watch-house on the south Pier) was washed down. At about high water the sloop Bee, Dickinson, with goods (which put back on her passage for Leith), in attempting to take the harbour was driven behind the south Pier and became a total wreck; crew, and part of the materials, stores, and cargo saved. The brig Alfred, Robinson, which sailed on the 16th inst, lost her fore-yard a little to the southward of the harbour. The ship brought up in the roads and the master came on shore to obtain another yard; but during his absence from the ship the storm increased, the vessel slipped her cables, was carried out to sea, and became a total wreck near Hartlepool; crew drowned. At Stockton and the neighbourhood, the river Tees was higher than was ever known, and very great damage done on both sides of the river. A great part of the village of New Stranton was washed down, the people being obliged to get out by the windows, middle deep in water. Tables, chairs, bed-steads, and furniture of all descriptions, were floating about, and boats were brought in requisition to save several families. At Seaton Carew the water flowed through the town like a river! The oldest inhabitants of Hartlepool and the neighbourhood never knew anything to equal it, or come near it by seven feet. Nineteen houses in Stranton and its vicinity were completely gutted. A vessel went on shore near Seaton and all hands on board perished. The life boat made three ineffectual attempts to get at her. The brig Emma, Hall, of Sunderland, at anchor near Hartlepool, cut away her mainmast and slipped her cable; she cleared the Fairway Buoy, and it was expected she would bring up in the Tees, but she sailed into some green fields, near Middlesbro', and was left lying in grass instead of water! At Middlesbro' the loss was great: the pottery alone sustained £1000 damage; it was surrounded with a strong high wall, and the gate was barricaded with clay, but such was the violence of the storm, that the wall was laid flat, and the whole building immersed four feet deep in water. Part of the railway between Stockton and Middlesbro' was washed away. The tide flowed so rapidly, that it was with great difficulty the cattle were saved on the banks of the river.—*Local Papers.*

1836 (Feb. 17).—About six o'clock in the evening, a most alarming fire broke out at Warton farm, near Rothbury, occupied by Mr.

Robert Dickinson, by which seventeen corn stacks, the barn, and the thrashing machine, were totally consumed. The fire originated by one of the cottage chimneys taking fire, the sparks from which, communicated to the roof of the outer wheel of the machine, and as the wind was blowing a perfect hurricane at the time, it almost instantly communicated to the stack yard, immediately adjoining. The devouring element spread with such awful rapidity, that in less than half an hour the whole presented one tremendous blaze. The fire engine from Rothbury arrived in time to prevent the flames from extending further. Mr. Dickinson had fortunately insured his property only a few weeks before.—*Local Papers.*

1836 (Feb. 20).—Saturday, a barbarous murder was committed near the village of Lumley, in the county of Durham, on the person of Richard Taylor, a shoemaker, in the 79th year of his age. From the time the deceased left Cocken, on his way to Lumley, the deed is supposed to have been perpetrated between seven and eight o'clock. The body was found near a footpath between these villages, by two boys on Sunday morning. The head had been beaten till almost flat, and the brains were scattered about the ground. The unfortunate old man, who was of an inoffensive disposition and much respected, was robbed, it is believed, of between ten and twenty shillings in silver. Two men were apprehended on suspicion of being the murderers, but were afterwards discharged.—*Ibid.*

February 21.—Died, in his seventieth year, at Auckland castle, the right reverend William Van Mildert, the last Count Palatine * bishop of Durham. Dr. Van Mildert was the grandson of Abraham Van Mildert, of Amsterdam, who settled as a merchant in London, and resided in the parish of Great St. Helen's. His son Cornelius, who resided at Newington, Surrey, and died in 1799, had by Martha, daughter of William Hill, of Vauxhall, esq., (which lady died in 1818, at the advanced age of 86), three sons, of whom the second and sole survivor was the bishop.

William Van Mildert was born in London in the year 1765. He received his education at Merchant-tailors' school, and at Queen's college, Oxford, where he graduated B. A. 1787, M. A. 1790, B. and D. D. 1813. In Trinity term, 1781, he was ordained deacon on the curacy of Sherbourn and Lewknor, in Oxfordshire. He afterwards became curate of Witham, in Essex, and during his residence at that place he married Jane, daughter of the late general Douglas, who survived him without issue. In April, 1812, he was elected by a large

* This year the palatinate jurisdiction of the bishop of Durham was transferred to the crown by an act of parliament intituled 6 and 7. Wm. 4., Cap. 19.

majority of the benchers, to the preachingship * of Lincoln's Inn. In September 1813, he was appointed by lord Liverpool to be Regius Professor of Divinity at Oxford. In March, 1819, he was made bishop of Llandaff; and dean of St. Paul's in the following year. He then resigned his station at Oxford, and divided his time between London and Llandaff. In March 1826, on the death of Dr. Shute Barrington, he was placed in the episcopal chair of Durham.

As a theological writer the late bishop of Durham stands in the first class. His "Boyle's lectures" are an excellent performance. They contain an historical view of the rise and progress of infidelity, with a refutation of its principles and reasonings; and display a vast extent of reading, and a singular judgment in the arrangement and application of their materials.

His "Life of Waterland" is a model for compositions of that kind. Dr. Waterland died in 1740, and for eighty years after his death no attempt was made to publish a complete edition of his works. At length, in the year 1823, bishop Van Mildert supplied this defect. He put forth an edition of "Waterland," in ten volumes, from the Oxford press, and he rendered his labour complete by prefixing a masterly "Review of the Life and Writings of the Author." This book fills up a chasm in the history of the Church of England. It shows the progress of the Trinitarian controversy from the death of bishop Bull, in 1709, to the period of Waterland's death. It is indeed the production of a master—solid, luminous, and comprehensive, of equal value to the Ecclesiastical historian and to the Theological student.

The two volumes of sermons preached at Lincoln's Inn, and published in 1831, are perhaps more generally known than the rest of the bishop's works, and many of them are as fine specimens of sermons for a learned audience, as the English language can supply. There are also several single sermons of the bishop's in print, not included in these volumes, particularly one on the assassination of Mr. Percival, and another of very great merit, preached before the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. He supported the duke of Wellington in the removal of the disabilities of the Roman Catholics, and published the substance of a speech delivered on that occasion.

As a speaker in parliament the bishop of Durham always commanded attention. Abstaining entirely from general politics, he was always ready for debate when the credit or interest of the church of England was at stake. In these efforts he was remarkably successful.

* It may here be remarked that his successor in the see of Durham, Dr. Maltby, also filled the office of preacher at Lincoln's Inn, previously to his appointment to this bishopric.

He thoroughly understood the character and feeling of the house of lords; and the unaffected refinement of his mind and manners was exactly suited to their taste. The consequence was, that every word he uttered was received with deference and attention. Those who most strenuously opposed his arguments, revered his integrity and talent. All parties treated him with respect. On one occasion, when his voice was accidentally more feeble than usual, the leading members of the house crowded round him, while he warned them, solemnly and firmly, against disturbing those bulwarks which he deemed essential to the preservation of the church. His style, whether in speaking or writing, was, like his character, remarkable for its simplicity. There was no laboured ornament, no rhetorical display, nothing which carried with it the air of affectation or pretence. His taste was classical, his conceptions clear; and all his propositions were stated in language which it was scarcely possible to misapprehend.

To his unbounded charity, public and private, every corner of his diocese can bear its testimony. The university established in Durham was chiefly formed by his munificent support. His private charities were supplied with promptitude and delicacy. Princely almost as was his income, his lordship died, comparatively speaking, a poor man; and provision for his amiable widow arose chiefly from her beneficial interest in a life policy, to be realized by his lordship's demise.

On the whole it is very difficult to speak justly of this eminent person, without seeming to incur the charge of flattery. His understanding was vigorous and comprehensive; his learning accurate and deep: his apprehension quick; his temper highly sensitive, but generous, kind, and forgiving in the last degree. Perhaps no man ever lived who could dismiss an angry emotion more readily from his mind. To forgive injuries was the habit of his life; to resent them, he was never known.

In conversation he was lively and instructive, and not unfrequently playful; but whenever grave matters were introduced his mind rose in proportion to the subject, and he poured forth his store of knowledge, and his manly sentiments with dignity and animation.

The bishop enjoyed at different periods of his life the confidence and esteem of some of the most distinguished persons of his time, especially in the clerical and legal professions. He had a laudable ambition to acquire the good opinion of good men, and he succeeded; but of popularity, in the common meaning of the word, he was totally regardless. No hope of reward, no fear of censure, could ever induce him to deviate from that course which he conceived it to be his duty to maintain.

But, after all, the grand element of this fine character was a deep,

habitual, and pervading sense of religion. This was the foundation stone of the whole fabric; on no other principle, indeed, could such a character have been formed. The labour of his life and the faculties of his mind were steadily directed to the maintenance and vindication of Christian truth. The remains of this excellent prelate were interred in a vault prepared in the nave of the cathedral church of Durham. Hitherto no Protestant bishop had been buried there. The funeral took place on the first of March.—*Gent's Mag.*

1836 (Feb. 24).—Berwick-upon-Tweed and the neighbourhood was visited with a tremendous gale. The violent north-east wind impelled the waves so fearfully upon shore, that they may be stated to have only been prevented by the strength of the ancient walls, from inundating the streets. Various vessels in the harbour sustained serious damage. From the twenty-one gun battery onward as far as the point of the Pier, the tide had risen so high above its ordinary level, that it entirely overflowed the road. The Pier was no obstruction to the contention of the waves, which broke over it from side to side. At Sansel Point it destroyed property to the extent of £500. At Eyemouth, the whole of the properties situated next to the beach were more or less damaged. Upwards of 1,300 valuable trees were blown down in the earl of Tankerville's park, at Chillingham; and a venerable tree, the largest in the country, called the Broom Tree, and supposed to have stood 400 years in the church-yard at Alnwick, was torn up by the roots, and disturbed a large portion of the ground, carried away the wall, and did much damage. All the inhabitants of Alnwick regretted the fall of the Broom Tree.—*Local Papers.*

February 26.—Friday, the first market for the sale of cattle and sheep, was held at Belford, Northumberland, when there was a good show of stock.—*Ibid.*

February 29.—Monday, during this day and nearly the whole of Tuesday, the borders of Scotland were visited by a very heavy fall of snow, which rendered the roads between Newcastle and Edinburgh, impassable.—*Ibid.*

February.—A number of houses on the Quayside, Sunderland, were pulled down, the site being wanted for the erection of coal staiths for the Sunderland and Durham railway.—*Ibid.*

March 2.—At about eight o'clock, at night, the extensive spinning mill of Messrs. Clarke, Plummer and Co., at the Ouseburn, Newcastle, was discovered to be on fire. On the alarm being given, the North British, Newcastle, sir M. W. Ridley, bart. and Co's, the Sun, from Gateshead, and Messrs. Hawks and Co's. fire engines were promptly on the spot. Fortunately there was a good supply of water from the

burn, and its application, added to that of the judicious construction of the cisterns placed on the roofs of the buildings, from which the water is conducted by pipes, the firemen and the workmen of the company were enabled to direct their exertions most effectually; and being aided by the neighbouring inhabitants, who co-operated in the most praiseworthy manner, the flames were completely got under before eleven o'clock. The fire originated in a part of the building between the mill and the engine house, where the main wheel and shafts are placed, and separated from the wheel as a precaution against fire. The flames however soon communicated with the spinning rooms, and destroyed a great portion of the valuable machinery, in the second and fourth floors, and in the attics, where models and extra machinery, and a considerable quantity of property of a valuable description, were kept, and the roof was considerably damaged. The most valuable part of the machinery on the ground floor was however saved, but was injured by the water which had fallen from above. The damage was estimated at £4000.—*Local Papers*.

1836 (March 12).—The Northumberland Agricultural Society was formed. The meeting was held at Alnwick, and was numerously attended by the gentry of the county.—*Ibid*.



ANCIENT HOUSES, WALKER GATE, ALNWICK (1826).

CHAPTER XIII.



THE Lady Jane of Newcastle, one of the ice-bound whalers, arrived at Stromness, Orkney, on the 12th of March, 1836, after a rough passage of twenty-three days, having got clear of the ice on the 18th of February, in N. lat. 51 deg. 25 min. long. W. 52 deg. She was first beset in lat. 69 deg. 20 min. having drifted 1,250 miles. Her own crew mustered fifty-two, and at one time there were no less than fifty-four shipwrecked men on board, but other vessels reduced them to thirteen, the number on board all winter. She had provisions for twelve months, and although that time expired on the above day, they were, on the whole, not very ill off for quantity. The ship was several times severely stove during the summer, six feet of the stern post carried away, her fortifications round the stern dreadfully smashed, some timbers broken, and three planks, six feet below water, started three inches. From the time of this disaster, she made a good deal of water, although none but the captain and carpenter knew the full extent of their danger. When the Grenville Bay left them on the 13th of December, a ship's length would have set them clear, but the wind, when it released the Grenville Bay, drove the Lady Jane farther in the ice, and in these trying circumstances, broke the spirits of the crew.—Until Christmas, they kept up pretty well, but after that a woeful change came over them, caused chiefly by the want of fire-wood, having burnt all their loose wood and stakes, value £600. After that time their clothes gave way, which obliged many to take to their beds. The first man (a native of Stromness) died on the 31st of January, and from that time to her arrival at Stromness, no less than twenty-three had died, and several were in a very precarious state. Of the whole sixty-four, only eight were able to crawl alone, including the captain and doctor; and twelve

fresh hands were shipped to take the vessel to Newcastle, where she arrived about the end of the month. The disease which carried off so many men, was scurvy, only one being frost-bit. The actions of some deserve well to be recorded: the poor fellow who was frost-bit, did duty at the pump as cheerfully as the best of them, although he was carried to it.—Had it not been for the exertions of the surgeon, it is to be doubted whether they would ever have got home; he attended the sick night and day, cooked for those at the pump, wrought at the pump, and kept his watch. Of the twenty-three who died, thirteen were Orkney men. The appearance of the survivors was truly distressing, Captain Leask being the only man able to go aloft from the time they left the ice, at which period he managed to close reef their topsails, and not a reef point was afterwards altered. Soon after the arrival of the vessel in the Tyne, a letter appeared in the Newcastle Chronicle, charging captain Leask with acts of impropriety during the voyage, in consequence of which, and agreeably to the men's own desire, a meeting was held on April 26th, at Mr. Webb's, Peacock inn, to investigate into the matters complained of. There were present the following gentlemen:—George Straker, esq., chairman; George T. Dunn, esq.; T. R. Batson, esq.; Robert Anderson, esq., South Shields; James Edgecome, esq.; lieutenant Pitts, R. N.; Richard Day, esq., Trinity master; Rowland Hodge, esq.; R. S. Stanhope, esq.; Joseph French, esq.; Thomas Gibson, esq.; captain Palmer, late of the Cove; Charles Smith, jun., esq.; Jas. Williamson, esq.; Stephen Lowrey, esq.; and G. A. Lambert, esq. The five men and one in addition, attended, each stating his complaints, and after the most strict and impartial investigation, which lasted upwards of six hours, the gentlemen present unanimously exonerated captain Leask from every charge brought against him.—The chairman expressed his conviction that not a single charge had been substantiated and that the captain had come out of the investigation unscathed. Mr. Dunn, who took great pains to examine the evidence, stated that he not only perfectly agreed with the chairman, but would go a step further, and propose a vote of approbation on the captain for his conduct during a most perilous voyage, which was moved and carried by acclamation. The charges were met by exculpatory evidence the most satisfactory and conclusive, which left no doubt as to the motives of those by whom they were originated. In addition to the account of the complete exoneration of captain Leask, of the Lady Jane, from the charge brought against him, it must be added that in his own defence, captain L. observed that while in the ice and under apprehension of danger, for five nights successively he never had his clothes off, and never was in bed.—*Local Papers.*

1836 (March 16).—Wednesday morning, the boiler of the engine at Cramlington colliery burst, and three persons lost their lives by the accident. A young man, named John Dowson, who had charge of the engine, was one of the sufferers, and the other two were boys, who were passing on their way to school.—*Local Papers*.

Same day, a melancholy consequence, resulting from the intemperate use of ardent spirits, occurred at Newcastle. Whilst the officers of customs were employed in gauging a number of casks of whiskey, which had been landed on the Quay, a keelman, named Thomas Cunningham, residing in Sandgate, watching his opportunity, introduced a "sucker" into one of the bung holes, and drank until he became quite insensible, and, on being conveyed home, he fell into a succession of fits, in which he continued until nearly eleven o'clock at night when death released him of his sufferings. He was a young man, in his 26th year, and left a widow and two young children to lament his dreadful end.—*Ibid*.

March 19.—Saturday, a fire was discovered breaking out at South Hetton colliery, about seven o'clock on the evening, which was fortunately got under with no greater damage than what was done to the south winding machine, where it originated. An excellent fire engine from Hetton and the active exertions of men from that and neighbouring collieries, combined with the zealous energies of the workmen of the colliery, speedily dispelled any apprehension of further damage, and secured the business of the colliery from any material interruption.—*Ibid*.

On the same evening, a fatal affray took place in the Old Custom house entry, on the Quayside, Newcastle, between Luke McDormant, an old man, a labourer in sir M. W. Ridley's glassworks, Michael Doherty, and Patrick Collins in which the former was killed by a blow on the head. Doherty was apprehended on the same evening but the latter was still at large. On the 21st, an inquest was held on the body before G. W. Cram, esq., in the merchant's court, when the jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against Patrick Collins, and of gross misconduct on the part of Doherty. Meanwhile search was made in all parts for the principal; but without success until April 2, when he was apprehended in a public house in the Isle of Man, by Thomas Cleator, chief constable of Douglas, and three others. He made a most determined and desperate resistance; Cleator had one of his fingers dislocated, and the others received divers bruises. He arrived in this town on the Lord Exmouth coach in the custody of William Turnbull, constable on the 12th of April, and was instantly placed in gaol, and fully identified on Wednesday the 13th. At the succeeding assizes he was convicted of manslaughter.—*Ibid*.



OLD HOUSE, HIGH STREET, GATESHEAD (1844).

1836 (March 29).—Tuesday, the magistrates of the borough of Gateshead, met in the new justice room, in Oakwellgate, to transact judicial business for the first time, upon which occasion, George Hawks, esq., the mayor, and Messrs. W. H. Brockett, W. Hymers, and Jas. Pollock, subscribed the declaration required by the act, having previously taken the necessary oaths. The first prisoner placed at the bar was a pitman named Wm. Robinson, who was charged with stealing a sheet from the house where he lodged, kept by Elizabeth Broadbelt, and pledging it; the prisoner pleaded distress. He was sentenced to hard labour for fourteen days.—*Local Papers*.

March.—Sir John Edward Swinburne, bart., presented two swans to the museum of the Durham university, which were to be kept on the river Wear, near to the old Abbey mill, which had been converted to the purposes of the museum. The curators issued a notice requesting the public not to annoy the new inhabitants of the sylvan scene.—*Ibid*.

This month, in clearing away the sand bank east of Morpeth castle, the workmen dug up several cannon shot of one and two pounds weight, which were supposed to have been fired during the siege of that place by Montrose, in the year 1644.—*Ibid*.

April 1.—A spacious new chapel was opened for worship in Gateshead, for the use of the Methodist New Connexion.—*Ibid*.

April 2.—Was presented to Mrs. Hood, the lady of J. L. Hood, esq., the last mayor of the old corporation of Newcastle, a splendid

tureen, for the purchase of which, £100. were voted by the common council on her having a daughter during the mayoralty. The tureen is as much deserving of praise for its general form, as for the skill with which all the minutiae of the work upon it has been finished. The projecting edge is beautifully ornamented with a composite border of leaves and moulding. On the top of the lid are gracefully carved and arranged acanthus leaves and stalks. The general outline of the tureen is from the celebrated Warwick vase. On one side are the arms of Hood, on the other the following inscription:—"To Mrs. Hood, Mayoress of Newcastle, this token of regard and admiration was presented by the Common Council on the occasion of the birth of a daughter, Theodosie Rose, in the Mansion House, A. D. 1835."—*Local Papers*.

1836 (April 8).—Friday, the first show of the Coquetdale Agricultural Association took place at Rothbury. Notwithstanding the long continuance of bad weather, and the threatening state of the atmosphere, on the immediately preceding days, the day throughout was remarkably fine, which added much to the animation of the scene. The quantity of stock exhibited, exceeded the most sanguine expectation of the promoters of the institution. The cattle were very generally admired, both for their breeding and condition, and many of them were readily disposed of at high prices. The show of stallions, particularly for the draught, was excellent.—*Ibid*.

April 10.—A new Primitive Methodist chapel was opened at Alledale town.—*Ibid*.

April 16.—Saturday, about eleven in the forenoon, a small public house called the Border inn, at Sunnyside, two miles north from Berwick, was entered by three young men and plundered of all the money that was in the house, amounting to about £3. Information was speedily conveyed to Berwick, and upon the Union coach arriving about half past twelve to proceed southward, it was suggested that the thieves might be met with on the road, and Proudfoot the police officer, immediately started by it. The coach had not proceeded half-way to Belford before three persons answering the description were observed; the guard, David Duncan, and Proudfoot, descended, as well as the coachman, Wm. Rapier, who got entangled by his coat and thrown down, and was rendered unable for the moment to assist. Duncan, however collared two of them, and Proudfoot the other, and the coachman by this time coming up, they were tied by the arms and locked up in the inside of the coach with the officer (the inside passengers, Mr. Wallace, M. P. for Greenock, and Mr. Gillon, M. P. for Linlithgow, having kindly gone outside for that purpose), and were so brought to Belford, and placed in security till

they could be conveyed back to Berwick. At the quarter sessions held there, on July 4th, they were convicted and sentenced to six months' imprisonment and hard labour.—*Local Papers*.

1836 (April 18).—As Robert and Philip Marshall, and Alexander Hall, of Hallington, in the parish of St. John Lee, Northumberland, were digging for coals, in a small stream, which takes its source from the west part of the Kirkheaton estate, they found a human skeleton, in a deep hole, which lay under a large flat stone; the head had been put downwards, about five feet deep, and the arms and legs had been bent upon the body. From the appearance of the remains, they are supposed to have been those of a tall woman; and there was little doubt, from the position in which they were found, and the nature of the place, that she had been murdered.—*Ibid*.

April 19.—Tuesday evening, about six o'clock, much alarm was created in the centre of Newcastle, by the discovery of some straw being on fire in a cellar attached to the premises of Messrs. Liddell and Webster, wine and spirit merchants, Theatre square. By prompt assistance, and a speedy attendance of the engines, the fire was extinguished before any serious damage was effected.—*Ibid*.

April 20.—Wednesday morning between three and four o'clock, a fire was discovered in the engine house of Mr. George Renoldson, miller, South Shields, which, together with some workshops above it used for engine building, was completely destroyed. The mill and adjoining premises were saved by the timely arrival of the North and South Shields fire engines;—but about eleven o'clock in the forenoon, whilst men were engaged in clearing away the rubbish, one of the walls fell in and buried three of them in the ruins. They, however, were got out with life, but very severely bruised. The property was not insured.—*Ibid*.

April 22.—A fire broke out at Chatton mill, Northumberland, owing to some of the cottage servants throwing fire into the fold-yard. The wind blowing strong from the west, the fire communicated to the buildings adjoining the stack-yard, and two stacks were soon in flames, but by the prompt assistance of the neighbours from Chatton, the further progress of the flames was happily prevented. One calf was burnt, and four valuable horses were got out with great difficulty. At one time the barn which joins the farm house was on fire, and had it not been for the exertions of some active young men, who at the risk of their lives mounted the roof and cut off the communication, the farm house must inevitably have been destroyed.—*Ibid*.

April 22.—The Aurora Borealis visited the northern counties with great brilliancy on the night of this day, Friday, between the hours of ten and twelve o'clock.—*Ibid*.

1836 (April 25).—The bridge across the Tyne, at Wylam, was formally opened. It is of wood supported by stone pillars, and was built by subscription. It affords great accommodation, being passable by both foot passengers and carriages, for which a small toll is charged.—*Local Papers.*

This being St. Mark's day, thirty young men were admitted to the freedom of the borough of Alnwick, and afterwards "went through the well." This is the greatest number that, at one time, ever underwent the ordeal of this singular ceremony; apprehensions of corporate changes having induced several persons to submit to the ancient custom.—*Ibid.*

April 27.—On this morning (Wednesday), a coble belonging to Whitburn, in the county of Durham, with four hands, put off to sea in order to procure some lobster boxes they had placed near the rock ends the previous evening. A heavy sea unfortunately struck the coble, which immediately swamped, and the four including a father and two sons, met a watery grave. They were all married men, and left widows and sixteen children.—*Ibid.*

April 29.—On the morning of this day, Friday, some women confined in the house of correction, within the gaol of Newcastle, and employed in picking oakum, incautiously placed a quantity of rope near to the fire, in order to soften the tar, and render the process less difficult. One of them put a quantity on a shovel, and placed it on the fire for a similar purpose, where it at once ignited, and, being suddenly withdrawn, was accidentally brought in contact with that lying on the hearth, and the whole burst into a state of conflagration. The premises being built of stone, with metal joists and doors, confined the fire to the apartment in which it originated; and the screams of the women soon attracted the attention of the governor, Mr. Gilbert Grey, by whose judicious exertions the greatest order was maintained, and not a single loss of life, or even extensive injury, occurred. Several fire engines were soon on the spot, but the fire was extinguished without their aid.—*Ibid.*

April 29.—The furniture, consisting of antique chairs and tables, belonging to the old corporation of Durham, was brought to the hammer in the public market place of that city. The total amount of the sale was £2. 3s. 9d. !!!—*Ibid.*

May 1.—The body of Mr. Wm. Falla, nurseryman in Gateshead, who had been missing since the 2nd of April, and of whom nothing had been heard from that period, notwithstanding a very diligent search, instituted by his relatives, and a reward offered in the newspapers for information respecting him, was accidentally discovered lying in Ravensworth wood, near Lamesley, where, according to the

verdict of a respectable jury, he had "destroyed himself in a fit of temporary insanity."—*Local Papers*.

1836 (May 1).—The handsome and conveniently situated chapel belonging to the Methodist new connexion, in Hood street, Newcastle, was opened for divine service, when sermons were preached on that and following days, during which was collected the sum of £166.—*Ibid*.

May.—In the beginning of this month, at Cargofleet, near Stockton, whilst a man was employed digging under the bottom of a stranded vessel, she heeled over upon him; and before he could be extricated the tide returned and he was drowned. Both legs were afterwards found to have been broken by the accident.—*Ibid*.

May 2.—Monday, the Newcastle New Police force, under the superintendence of Mr. Stephens, went on duty for the first time; but they did not appear in their uniform dress until the following week. The dress is similar to that of the London police,—blue, with white buttons and white lace. On the button is the shield of the Newcastle arms, and the words "Newcastle police."—*Ibid*.

May 6.—That striking, and at all times interesting phenomenon, the solar eclipse, was witnessed on this day (Sunday), by thousands who had the high gratification of having their intellect excited, and their respect for human science raised by such a proof of the extraordinary powers of the human mind, as shewn in the correct calculation of this glorious eclipse, and all their feelings of adoration and veneration augmented by such a sublime manifestation of the wondrous works of their Almighty Father. The day was as fine as ever shone from the heavens; not a cloud was visible, and the progress of the eclipse might be most minutely traced. The beginning of the annulus was at 7 minutes past 3, and its appearance lasted about 5 minutes. The diminution of light was very considerable, producing a subdued yellowish hue, something between sun-shine and moon-light. The planets, Jupiter and Venus, were visible to the naked eye. Alnwick, so favourably situated for the observance of the eclipse, being under the line of central and annular appearance, was the scene of the most intense interest. The arrival of sir James South on the Monday preceding, and of lord Prudhoe on the Friday, contributed to stimulate public curiosity to the highest degree. These distinguished personages were amply provided with philosophical apparatus, and made their observations from a temporary observatory erected on the lawn in front of Briscoe tower, about two miles N. W. of Alnwick. The church was closed in the afternoon, and crowds flocked to the moor, the parks, and the fields, provided with all kinds of optical instruments. Lord Prudhoe had provided telescopes, &c., for the use of the public, on Sunday, but, through some mistake, the

public were not apprised of the circumstance. On Monday evening his lordship ordered the parks to be thrown open, and the public were not only permitted to view the stars then above the horizon, by his lordship's and sir James South's telescopes, but were also liberally provided with refreshments, by his lordship's order. During the time of the eclipse, the thermometer in the open air fell 15° , giving the air a chilly sharpness, resembling a cold autumnal evening. The feeble lurid light, at the greatest obscuration, was scarcely sufficient to enable the time-keeper to observe the index of the chronometer. The sheep and cattle retired to their evening lairs, and the birds were seeking their coverts, and uttering their feeble chirrup as if before night-fall. After the termination of the eclipse, the sheep and cattle were again observed feeding, and traversing the pastures.—*Local Papers.*



ALNWICK CHURCH (1826).

1836 (May 7).—About 4 o'clock in the morning, the ship building yard of Messrs. Adamson, of Bishopwearmouth pans, was discovered to be in flames by the watchman, and at the same time by a boy, who quickly gave the alarm. The boy was busy lighting the boiler fire, and some shavings having communicated, the fire spread with great rapidity to some fir deals and other wood. A ship which was building on the stocks took fire, and was severely burnt on the starboard bow; another vessel was slightly burnt, but being on a slip way, was launched into the river with comparatively little damage. As soon as the alarm was given, the populace ran in thousands to the place, and not less than seven engines were ultimately in active play, among

which was one from the barracks, with a detachment of the 56th regiment under major Eden, who most fearlessly rendered the most effectual assistance. At this time the large malting of Mr. Thomas Taylor, of the Horn's lane brewery, was blazing with a frightful rapidity, and great fears were entertained for the houses adjoining. The greatest credit attached to the workmen, gentlemen, and others who assisted at the fire. By 8 o'clock on the morning, the fire was considerably abated, but it was not entirely extinguished till late in the day. To prevent the flames from spreading to the adjoining property, it was found necessary to stop the communication by pulling one house down. The loss was estimated from £4000. to £5000. Mr. Taylor had, upwards of 5000 bushels of malt in the malting which was all destroyed.—*Local Papers.*

1836 (May 9).—An alarming fire occurred at Hartlepool on the evening of this day, Monday, on the premises in the High street, occupied by Mr. Paddon, druggist, but by the prompt attendance of a fire engine the flames were soon extinguished. The damage was considerable, but the property was insured.—*Ibid.*

May 10.—Tuesday, a hiring, for agricultural servants was held for the first time, at the Hay market, Percy-street, Newcastle.—*Ibid.*

May 16.—Was passed "An Act for separating the Palatine Jurisdiction of the County of Durham from the Bishoprick of Durham. By this act it was provided that the bishop of Durham elect, or bishop of Durham for the time being, should take and hold the said bishoprick subject to and under any provisions which might be made by parliament with respect to the said bishoprick, within the space of three years.—*Statutes at Large.*

May 18.—An alarming fire was discovered about 12 o'clock at night, by the watchman, in the shop of Miss Share, milliner, Tyne street, North Shields, which for a time threatened destruction to the adjoining valuable property. By prompt exertion, however, on the part of a few gentlemen, it was fortunately subdued, though not until a considerable part of the stock was consumed.—*Local Papers.*

May 20.—A fire was discovered in the ship yard of Mr. Wilkinson, at Deptford, near Sunderland. Some loose wood near the boiler had ignited, but it was speedily extinguished without doing much damage.—*Ibid.*

May 23.—On this afternoon (Monday), the foundation stone of a new chapel to be called the Wesleyan Seceders Tabernacle, was laid by Andrew White, esq., mayor of Sunderland, in South Durham street, Bishopwearmouth. Mr. Spencer of Darlington preached a sermon on the site of the intended building previous to the laying of the stone, and Mr. T. B. Young afterwards addressed the numerous

audience at great length stating the reasons of the secession from the Wesleyan society, and pointing out to them the principles which they, as a society, intended to pursue. At the close of the service, a collection was made on the ground in aid of the funds of the tabernacle.—*Local Papers.*

1836 (May).—A very appropriate medal was struck for distribution during the first perambulation of the boundaries of the borough of Gateshead.—*Ibid.*

May 24.—A fire broke out in a barn belonging to Mr. Bowman, at Ryhope, near Sunderland, which was in a little time burnt down with its contents, consisting of a quantity of wheat which had only been put there a short time before. It is supposed to have been maliciously done, as an attempt to set his stable on fire was made on the morning of the same day.—*Ibid.*

May 24.—Died, aged 59, Mr. Henry Munro, professor of music. He was organist of St. Andrew's church, Newcastle, for nearly forty years, in the performance of which duty, as well as in the various departments of his art, he was esteemed a well grounded and excellent musician.—*Ibid.*

May 24.—The ship Georgiana of Sunderland, arrived at that port from Sierra Leone, and, although drawing $17\frac{1}{2}$ feet of water, entered the harbour with perfect safety. This was the first vessel of so large a draught that had taken this harbour.—*Ibid.*

May 24.—A meeting was held between Mr. Grainger and the proprietors of the Newcastle Theatre, at the Queen's head inn, at which a final arrangement was made, for the removal of the old theatre, to be replaced by a magnificent new one, in Grey-street, between Shakspeare-street and Market-street.—*Ibid.*

May.—About this time a subscription library was opened at Haydon bridge, in connection with the News room there.—*Ibid.*

May 30.—The Brandling Junction railway bill was read a third time and passed.—*Ibid.*

May 31.—Between four and five o'clock in the afternoon, a very beautiful and splendid ship, named the Scotia, was launched from the dock yard of Messrs. T. and W. Smith, at St. Peter's, Newcastle. The vessel measured according to the new act 770 tons register, and by the old mode 660 tons; she was 145 feet in length, and 32 feet 8 inches in breadth, was elegantly fitted up between decks for the accommodation of passengers, and intended for the East India trade. She went very beautifully off the slip-way into the river, amidst the firing of guns and other demonstrations of joy; a vast multitude of spectators were assembled on both sides of the river Tyne to witness her launch.—*Ibid.*

1836 (May).—About this period a valuable mineral water was brought into notice; called “The Health Springs,” and situate between Offerton and Coxgreen, in the county of Durham. The following is an analysis by W. R. Clanny, esq., M. D., of Bishopwearmouth:—

Sulphuretted hydrogen gas.....9·34 Cubic Inches.

Carbonic acid.....6·51

Carburetted hydrogen.....3·47

Nitrogen.....1·32

—20·64

Chloride of sodium.....23·82 Grains.

Chloride of calcium.....3·67

Bicarbonate of soda1·45

—28·94

This mineral water was found to be very efficacious in deranged states of the digestive organs, with vitiated secretions, and in inactive states of the stomach and bowels, as also in cases of hemorrhoidal tumours, from whatever cause, in diseases of the stomach and kidneys, and in cachexia from free living, or from the imprudent use of drastic patent medicines. To the above list we may add, scrofula, scurvy, and other cutaneous diseases, secondary syphilis, hypochondriasis, and calculous affections, &c. Dr. Clanny's analysis was made June 1, 1836.—*MS. Col.*

June 2.—As some workmen were digging in a hole for a tent pole, close to the face of the rock near to Mr. Peter Allan's tavern, at Marsden, near South Shields, they found the skeleton of a man of large size, about three feet below the surface. The body appeared to have been interred with care, there being flat smooth stones laid beneath the head, though from a flattened leaden bullet being found within the ribs, there can be no doubt the individual met with a violent death.—*Local Papers.*

June 10.—Saturday, that part of the Newcastle and Carlisle railway, which lies between Blaydon and the river Darwent, was opened.—*Ibid.*

June 11.—An advertisement was published, for the purpose of obtaining subscriptions to a proposed magnificent suspension bridge, with an approach from near St. Nicholas' church, Newcastle, across the river to West-street, Gateshead, thereby avoiding the steep and dangerous hills, Dean-street, and Bottle bank.—*Ibid.*

June 12.—St. John's church, Newcastle, was re-opened after having received considerable alterations and repairs.—*Ibid.*

June 13.—The foundation stone of an Independent chapel, was laid on a site of ground in the Back lane, opposite Ellison-street, Gateshead. The rev. A. Jack, after prayer, deposited, in a bottle,

a document referring to the ceremony and several coins of William IV. The stone was laid by the rev. Dr. Mattheson, of Durham.—*Local Papers.*

1836 (June 15 and 16).—Wednesday and Thursday, a boat regatta was held at Durham. The boats moved in procession from the Prebend's bridge up to Old Durham, and had an interesting appearance from the banks of the Wear, which were crowded by groups of persons of all grades. The weather was extremely fine, and the boat racing was well contested. The prize for six oared boats was won in two heats by the Flying Fish, beating the Dart. On the second day the boats were manned at two o'clock, and rowed in procession as on the previous day. The prize for the four oared boats was won by the Venus, beating the Boutland and others. The skiff race was won by Mr. Henry Ebdy. To conclude the day there was a grand display of fire-works, balloons, &c., at the Bank mill.—*Ibid.*

June 18.—About two o'clock in the morning, the city of Durham was visited by a most awful thunder storm. The lightning was terrific, and the rain fell in torrents. One house in Church street, near the new inn, was struck by the electric fluid, and the bed which two men had just left to go to work was shivered to pieces.—*Ibid.*

June 21.—The Newcastle-upon-Tyne and North Shields Railway Act received the royal assent.—*Ibid.*

June 24.—This day, the foundation stones of two new chapels in the parish of Newburn, designed by Mr. Green, architect, Newcastle, were laid: the former in the neighbourhood of Dissington, dedicated to the "Holy Trinity," by Edward Collingwood, esq.; the latter at Sugley field, dedicated to the "Holy Saviour," by Charles Bulmer, esq., managing director of the iron works in that township. Silver coins of the reign of William IV., presented by Robert Boyd, esq., were placed in glass vessels, and sunk in the respective foundation stones, together with suitable inscriptions.—*Ibid.*

June.—The family of Mr. William Bamell, tallow chandler, Durham, were disturbed by the cries of an infant child belonging to Mr. B., and on going to the room from which the cries proceeded, they found that the child had been severely bitten by a rat, which had knawed the flesh to the bone, from one of its fingers, and up to the hand as far as the wrist. It had also commenced an attack on the neck, but was disturbed by the family.—*Ibid.*

On Tuesday, June 28, that portion of the Newcastle and Carlisle railway which lies between Hexham and Haydon Bridge, was opened with great splendour. It had been previously announced that the trains would start from Blaydon at eleven o'clock, and reach Haydon Bridge at half-past one, and the committee of directors had with great liber-

ality issued to the shareholders and their friends tickets of admission to the carriages, and for refreshment at Haydon Bridge. During the whole of the morning, Scotswood Road presented a busy scene of carriages of all descriptions, horsemen, and pedestrians, all pressing forward to the station at Blaydon. At eleven o'clock the usual train started, and a few minutes after was followed by the two procession trains, under a salute of guns from the company's wharf. The first train consisted of five railway coaches and twelve trucks, fitted with convenient seats, was drawn by the Hercules engine, manufactured by Messrs. Stephenson, and the second, consisting of six railway coaches and eleven trucks, similarly fitted up, was drawn by the Samson engine, manufactured by Messrs. Hawthorn. Besides the regular carriages, several private ones, belonging to parties on the train, were attached.—The Allendale band were stationed on the first train, and displayed a very handsome flag presented to them on the occasion, bearing the arms of Newcastle and Carlisle. The Winlaton band were mounted on the second train, and both from time to time enlivened the gay scene by playing lively and martial airs. At the time of starting the morning was cloudy, and a slight shower of rain came on, but it soon passed away, and the day throughout fortunately proved bright and mild. At the several stations on the line the trains received fresh accessions of passengers. At Wylam, from whence a splendid salute was fired, Mr. Thompson and his friends joined; at Prudhoe, Mr. Laws; and at Dilston, Mr. Grey, the receiver to Greenwich hospital, and the Royal hospital flag, was here placed on the carriage containing the directors. Additional numbers were received at Hexham, and when the trains reached their point of destination, the whole was estimated at between 1,500, and 1,600, amongst whom were a large assemblage of ladies. At various parts of the line flags were hoisted and discharges of guns took place as the trains passed, and scarcely a spot on either side of the river, which commanded a view of the procession, was without its group of spectators, who by their acclamations testified the interest they took in the scene. At Haydon bridge a triumphal arch of evergreens and flowers were constructed across the road, and the single bell of the village church rang out its welcome to such a company as had never before trod the sequestered banks of that part of the Tyne. A little after four the company returned to the carriages, and at half-past four the trains started on their return to Blaydon, which they reached at half-past six o'clock. Throughout the day not the slightest accident occurred, except to a carriage proceeding to Blaydon in the morning, which was overturned in consequence of the horses turning restive, but no person was hurt.—*Local Papers.*

1836 (June 29).—Wednesday, at the king's levee, the duke of Cleveland was presented on his appointment to be Custon Rutulorum of the county of Durham.—*Local Papers*.

Same day, the bishop of Durham was introduced, and did homage on his appointment to the see of Durham.—*Ibid*.

July 4.—The Great North of England Railway Company was incorporated, when an act of parliament was obtained enabling them to make a railroad from Croft to Newcastle.—*Ibid*.

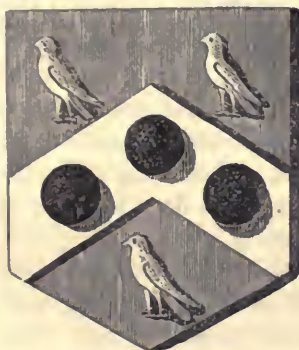
July 5.—A waggon of coals was conveyed from Haswell colliery, to Hendon, near Sunderland, by the Durham and Sunderland railway, being the first coal-waggon that had passed along that line.—*Ibid*.

July 5.—Newcastle and neighbourhood was visited by an awful storm of thunder and lightning accompanied by rain. The storm commenced about seven o'clock, and continued until about ten or eleven without the least intermission. Although the lightning was both forked and very vivid, no damage was done in the town. Durham and neighbourhood was also visited in a similar manner, and the Wear was much swollen by the rains. At Kirkwhelpington the storm was awful for many hours: about three o'clock, the thunder and lightning became for some time incessant. The electric fluid struck a large ash tree standing midway between two houses at the east end of the village, shivering the tree from top to bottom, and carrying the splinters, bark, &c., to a great distance: no damage was done to either of the two houses. At Alston, about eight o'clock in the morning, the distant thunder was heard in the N. W. which continued in quick succession till mid-day, when it burst forth in every direction, with vivid lightning, accompanied with the loudest peals of thunder ever remembered by the oldest inhabitant. A poor woman was struck with the lightning at Natrass, near Alston, while sitting in her house, which set her clothes on fire, and before she was discovered, they were nearly burnt off, a watch which was hanging on a nail, was melted. The rain at times fell in torrents, and completely inundated the streets. At Whitleys, near Blanchland, eighteen sheep were killed by the lightning. They had collected themselves into one corner of the fold, and were all killed at one time. The storm also visited Alnwick and neighbourhood, and Mr. Elliott of Shank hall, near that place, had a valuable horse killed by the lightning.—*Ibid*.

July 8.—Sir John Walsham, the assistant poor law commissioner for the district, formed the Newcastle upon Tyne Poor Law Union.—*Ibid*.

July 11.—As George Wilkinson, esq., of Durham, was driving his lady, and Mrs. Wilkinson, sen., in the direction of Seaham, in a phaeton, he attempted to cross the Seaham railway, when a train of

empty coal waggons was descending the inclined plane. His horse, which had abundance of time to pass before the waggons reached that part of the line, became as it were stupified, and would not proceed, in consequence of which circumstance the foremost waggon struck the phaeton, which together with the inmates and horse, were hurried along at a fearful rate down the incline. A man who was in this waggon snatched Mrs. George Wilkinson from her perilous situation and placed her in safety beside himself, Mr. W. soon afterwards fell from his seat, and the horse became disengaged from the vehicle, which was rapidly falling in pieces from the violence of the collision, Mrs. Wilkinson sen., however, kept her seat and gently rolled off at the bottom of the hill, when the waggons had almost ceased to move; after having been impetuously carried along somewhere about 180 yards. The carriage was broken into at least 50 pieces, and wonderful to relate, none of the party received any serious injury; the horse also escaped unhurt.—*Local Papers.*



1836 (July 15).—Died, at Richmond, Surrey, in his 58th year, sir Matthew White Ridley, of Blagdon, and of Heaton hall, in the county of Northumberland, bart., M.P. for Newcastle. He was born August 18, 1778, the eldest son of sir Matthew the second baronet, by Sarah, daughter and sole-heiress of Benjamin Colburne, of Bath, esq. He was matriculated of Christ's church, Oxford, April 24, 1795, and took his degree of B. A.

March 9, 1798. He was first elected member for Newcastle on his father's retirement, at the general election of 1812. He sat during eight parliaments, and for the space of twenty four years. At the two last elections he had to encounter a poll; but the result proved the high esteem in which he was held by his fellow townsmen. His principles were those of the old whigs, and in his address on the last election he declared himself a sincere and practical reformer; but in the extreme measures which characterised the latter periods of his political career, they inclined to conservatism. Sir Matthew married, August 13, 1803, Laura, youngest daughter of George Hawkins, esq., by whom he had six sons and six daughters. A portrait of sir M. W. Ridley, painted by James Ramsey, esq., has been published, drawn on stone by Weld Taylor.—*Gent's. Mag.*

July 19.—The installation of the right rev. Dr. Maltby, who had been translated from the see of Chichester to that of Durham, took place in the cathedral of Durham; the hon. and rev. Dr. Wellesley

acting as proxy for the bishop. His lordship arrived at Bishop Auckland on the 8th of August, and took possession of his episcopal residence at that place. On the 23rd he entered the city of Durham, and after receiving an address from the corporation, he repaired to the cathedral, where he was received, at the entrance from the Palace green, by Dr. Sumner, bishop of Chester, archdeacon Thorp, Drs. Ogle and Wellesley, and some of the neighbouring clergy. After the usual salutations, the bishop of Chester, in the absence of the dean, on behalf of himself and the rest of the chapter, addressed his lordship, congratulating him on his being raised to the see of Durham, and trusting that they would find in him as warm an advocate of the Christian religion as marked the conduct of his predecessors; and that he would lend his aid to the complete establishment of the Durham university. His lordship, in reply, shortly observed, that being sensible of the important responsibility that had recently devolved upon so humble an individual as himself, and aware of the multifarious duties attached to the see of Durham, they should have his unremitting attention; and with the co-operation of the enlightened body of the chapter, he felt confident the burthen would be greatly lessened. In conclusion, his lordship observed, that (having reference to the Durham university) in him they would find one disposed to promote every establishment that had for its object the advancement of true religion and piety, the arts and sciences, and the welfare of mankind. His lordship then proceeded to his closet, where he was robed, and thence conducted to the altar, where the bishop of Chester read the prayer usual on such occasions; his lordship was next conducted to his throne and remained there during the evening service. After which he dined with the bishop of Chester and a select party, and subsequently proceeded to Auckland castle. The cathedral was crowded.

—*Local Papers.*

1836 (July 19).—An explosion took place in Hebburn colliery on the Tyne, by which a man and two boys lost their lives.—*Ibid.*

July 25.—A vacancy in the representation of Newcastle in parliament having been occasioned by the death of sir M. W. Ridley, bart., the above day was appointed for the nomination of candidates, when John Hodgson, esq., of Elswick, was proposed and seconded by Archibald Reed and Dixon Dixon, esqrs., and captain Blackett, of Wylam, by T. E. Headlam and John Spedding, esqrs. At the close of the poll on the 27th, the numbers were, for Mr. Hodgson 1576,—for captain Blackett 1528.—*Ibid.*

July 29.—On the afternoon of this day, Friday, Newcastle and neighbourhood were visited by a tremendous storm of thunder, lightning and rain. The rain during the afternoon, and, indeed, through-

out the ensuing night, was so violent and so long continued as to flood the Tyne and its tributary streams to such a height as had not been equalled for several years. Many sheep and other farming stock was carried away, a great quantity of hay was lost from the low lands, and several fields of potatoes and turnips completely destroyed. Mr. Hall, a farmer at Newburn, had a thirty acre field of hay entirely destroyed by a deposit of sand brought down by the flood.—*Local Papers.*

1836 (July).—By a new arrangement of the pews in the area of St. Ann's chapel, Newcastle, effected this month, about one hundred new sittings were obtained. A hot air apparatus for warming the chapel was at the same time introduced; towards these alterations the Corporation of Newcastle gave one hundred guineas.—*Ibid.*

August 8.—The Brandling Junction railway was commenced this day (Tuesday), at the Felling, Durham, the first turf was cut in the presence of R. W. Brandling, esq., and a party of gentlemen, who had assembled to witness the first effort to forward this desirable undertaking.—*Ibid.*

August 9.—This day being the fortieth anniversary of the opening of the Sunderland bridge, it was determined that it should be celebrated by a similar event in the local history of that borough, viz., the partial opening of the eastern division of the Durham and Sunderland railway. Eight waggons of small coals were accordingly transmitted from Haswell colliery, drawn by horses, as the machinery of the steam engines on the line were not yet completed. About one o'clock the first waggon was lowered down from the staiths at the eastern extremity of the railway, by a cast metal drop, and discharged on board a keel alongside the quay, on the river Wear, amidst the firing of guns and huzzas of an immense number of spectators; the remaining waggons were discharged in like manner immediately afterwards. The machinery of the drop worked exceedingly well and gave the highest satisfaction.—*Ibid.*

August 10.—Thursday, the foundation stone of the bridge, built by T. W. Beaumont, esq., M. P., across the Tyne at Bywell, was laid by that gentleman, but the hilarity of the day was damped by an unfortunate accident. Orders had been given to blow up one of the piers of the old bridge, and while two men were in the act of charging a bore with gunpowder, it was supposed a spark had caught the powder, which blew up, and so dreadfully mangled one of the men that he died in a few minutes after; the other was also dreadfully torn.—*Ibid.*

August 11.—The king granted his royal license to John Hodgson, of Elswick house, esq., M. P. for Newcastle, in compliance with the

last will of Eliz. Archer Hinde, of Ovingham lodge, in the county of Northumberland, to assume the surname of Hinde, in addition to that of Hodgson.—*Gent's Mag.*

1836 (Aug. 17).—Wednesday, a commodious Methodist chapel was opened at Wolsingham, by the rev. G. B. M'Donald, from Sheffield. A numerous audience attended on the occasion.—*Local Papers.*

August 18.—A boat regatta was held on the river Wear, above Pallion, on which occasion the banks of the river were thronged with spectators of all classes, and presented a gay and animated appearance. On the river also, were a number of steam-boats, cobbles, gigs, &c., crowded with people, all of whom, both "ashore and afloat," appeared to take a lively interest in the amusements of the day. The first race, for the purse of sovereigns, by six-oared boats, did not take place. The second, for a silver medal, in skiffs, by gentlemen, distance, mile and half, was won by the Swift. The third, for a purse of sovereigns, by cobbles, three miles, was won by the William. The fourth, for a set of silver medals, in four-oared boats, by gentlemen, three miles, was won by the Gazelle. The fifth, for a purse of sovereigns, by four-oared boats, three miles, was won by the St. Agnes. The sixth, for a set of silver medals, in two-oared boats, by gentlemen, two miles, was won by the Gazelle. The seventh, a purse, for keel boats, one mile was won by the Monacre. The races were generally well contested, and gave every satisfaction. Towards the close the weather became showery, which induced some of the company to separate before the termination of the sports. With this exception, however, nothing occurred to cast a gloom upon the pleasures of the day.—*Ibid.*

August 19.—Friday, a new Wesleyan chapel, capable of holding 1500 persons, was opened in Fawcett street, Bishopwearmouth, by the rev. R. Newton. The chapel contains a powerful organ.—*Ibid.*

August 22.—A boy named George Young, about 7 years of age, while sitting behind his trap-door down one of the Cowpen pits, a large stone several tons weight fell upon him from the roof, and before he was got out, life was extinct.—*Ibid.*

August 28.—Sunday, Howick church, Northumberland, was re-opened after having a very elegant organ, and a new gallery erected, at the expense of earl Grey. Mr. Hixon was appointed organist.—*Ibid.*

August 30.—About eight miles of the eastern division of the Sunderland and Durham railway was opened, by several trains of waggons laden with coal, being brought along a new branch from Haswell colliery to the main line, and conveyed thereon to Sunderland, where the coals were shipped amidst the loud huzzas of the spectators, the

firing of guns and a numerous display of flags hoisted on many conspicuous places.—*Local Papers*.

1836 (August 31).—Wednesday, the Catholic chapel at Stella, erected a few years previously, was reopened after having a spacious new gallery, and a splendid altar erected.—*Ibid*.

September 8.—Thursday, the Roman Catholic chapel, lately rebuilt at Alnwick, from designs of Mr. John Green, jun., architect, of Newcastle, was opened.—*Ibid*.

September 9.—Friday, a species of shark, which the fishermen called "A White sharp nosed Shark," got entangled in the nets at Cullercoats, and was eventually taken alive. This voracious terror of the deep, measured six feet eight inches long, and his girth at the broadest part, four feet six inches. The fishermen asserted that only one similar specimen of the shark species was ever before captured on this part of the eastern coast. It was exhibited in Newcastle, and a trifling sum charged, on the next day, for the purpose of defraying the expences of mending their broken nets.—*Ibid*.



ROCKS NEAR CULLERCOATS.

September 13.—Tuesday, a lady who resides in Monkwearmouth, had, when a child about four years of age, two small pebbles put into her ears by an elder sister in play, which being pressed too far, penetrated the cavity of the ear, and could not be extracted. The circumstance was attended with slight pain and swelling of the glands, and one of the stones about seven years afterwards was voided through the same aperture. Lately the lady experienced a slight pain in the ear accompanied by a swelling of the glands and difficulty in swallowing, and to her astonishment on this day the other stone appeared within the cavity of the ear, and was with ease extracted; after having remained in the head for upwards of 44 years.—*Ibid*.

September 17.—Saturday, the market at West Auckland was opened.—*Ibid*.

September 25.—A hare, without being pursued, deliberately ran

through the village of Burnopfield, and by breaking a square of glass, entered the house of the constable, who exercised his authority in detaining poor puss, as well on account of her indiscretion as for the damage.—*Local Papers*.

1836 (September 28).—Wednesday, a handsome Methodist New Connexion chapel was opened in Linskill-street, North Shields.—*Ibid*.

September.—The first cargo of coal from Belmont, a colliery lately won, belonging to William Bell and Co., was shipped by the Durham and Sunderland railway on board the Sunderland packet.—*Ibid*.

September.—Arrived in Newcastle, a statue to the memory of James Losh, esq., executed by Mr. Lough, in Italy. It is a splendid figure, sculptured in the finest Italian marble, and is placed in the library of the Literary and Philosophical society. The meeting for the purpose of considering plans, &c. was held in 1833.—*Ibid*.

This month, the countess of Newburgh, one of the descendants of the Derwentwater family, changed horses at Hexham on her road to Dilston, where she inspected the ruins of the castle, and remained some time in the chapel, which contains the remains of James earl of Derwentwater (who was beheaded in 1716) and other members of the Radclyffe family. Lady Newburgh is widow of James Radclyffe, earl of Newburgh, last heir-male of the Derwentwater family, who was grandson of Charles Radclyffe, beheaded on Tower hill in 1746, by the countess of Newburgh in her own right. This was the first time any member of that unfortunate family had visited Dilston since lord Derwentwater quitted it to join the rebellion in 1715, when in consequence of his attainder, the immense possessions of his family became vested in Greenwich hospital.—*Ibid*.

September 30.—One of the most cold-blooded and atrocious murders, which, perhaps, has ever been recorded, was perpetrated upon a defenceless man named Lee, in the glass house, belonging to Mr. Price and situate in Pipewellgate, Gateshead. Lee lived in Gallowgate, Newcastle, and was a member of the Northumberland and Newcastle yeomanry cavalry, and the occurrence took place during the performance of their usual eight days' duty. He had, on the evening of September 30, taken a considerable quantity of liquor at a public house in Pipewellgate, and about half past one, on the morning of October 1, left, at her own house door, a female, an acquaintance of his, when he said he was going home. It was with difficulty he could walk; and he proceeded in the direction of the glass houses, where he often went to see the prisoners,* with whom

* Their names were Thomas Errington, aged 19, Henry Brown, aged 18, and Thomas Wardman, aged 19.

he was on intimate terms: indeed he had been in company with Brown, one of the three, in the public house the evening before, and no ill will subsisted between any one of them and the deceased. Lee it seems went into the glass house, and feeling weary from the effects of the drink he had taken, laid down upon a large box and fell into a sound sleep. Not long after, Errington commenced the diabolical scheme by bringing a straw rope from the door, and loosing out the ends. He stuffed one extremity into the breast of the prostrate man, and allowed the other to lay upon the ground. The three then brought a quantity of straw, laying near, and deposited it at the foot of the rope, so as to ignite easily. Errington then took a shovel to the furnace, to procure hot cinders, while the others continued to shake up the straw. He thrust the shovel into the burning furnace, and brought forth a quantity of fire, which he laid down on the straw. It immediately burnt up, but without reaching Lee. He awoke, however, and starting up, muttered some unintelligible words and then lay down again and slept. Two boys were in the place at the time, and one of them named Dykes, attempted to wake him again to warn him of the doings of the prisoners; but was thrust back by Errington, who again went and brought more fire, which was placed on the straw. In this instance it again burnt up without touching Lee. Errington again brought fire, and was again disappointed. Finding that his plan did not succeed, he proceeded to more certain means of destruction. He stooped and gathering together about two handfuls of fire and straw, threw them on the breast of the deceased. They then all three ran out, followed by the boy Dykes, who (as before stated) had witnessed the transaction, and who had been threatened with a worse death than that inflicted on Lee. The same impulse which had tempted them to run out, also drove them back to witness either the failure or consummation of their design. Before entering the place, however, they were met by Lee himself, who came running out, enveloped in flames, and crying out "fire." He ran along the street, and his cries alarmed a female named Mary Thompson, who came down to him. He then ran down a narrow alley, and in his desperation and agony, and total uncertainty of purpose rushed back again. At this outlet he was met by this Mary Thompson, and John Brown, the brother of one of the prisoners, who together got the fire out, about half-past two A. M. They got him into an entry, where a Mrs. Linley came down from the house above and anointed his wounds, after which he was taken into the house of one Grant. Here he was got ready to be taken to the Infirmary, and Errington who was in his mother's house at the time, witnessed the preparations, and signifying a wish to assist in carrying

the body, came down without his jacket. He shouted to his mother to throw his jacket from the window, which she did. He put it on, and in company with four or five others, among whom was the prisoner Brown, carried Lee to the infirmary. He was dangerously burnt about the thighs, arms, and belly, so much so that his recovery was impossible, and he appeared in a state of great depression: stimulants were continually applied, but without producing any re-action. Errington and Brown were taken into custody on Sunday night, and Wardman was taken not long after. Lee still remained in a doubtful state, every attention was paid to him; but he expired at ten o'clock on Monday night. A post mortem examination was held on the body; but no other cause could be assigned for his death than the injuries received by the action of the fire. An inquest was held on the body, and a verdict of wilful murder was returned against the three prisoners. Lee was buried with military honours in St. Andrew's church yard. The day was dull, but immense crowds of spectators assembled in the streets to witness the melancholy ceremony. At the assizes in February 1837, the three prisoners were found guilty of manslaughter, Errington was sentenced to ten years' transportation, and Brown and Wardman to two years imprisonment and hard labour.

—*Local Papers.*

1836 (October 6).—Thursday, early this morning the foundry of Messrs. Glynn, of Ouseburn, was discovered to be on fire, but from the prompt assistance of the fire engines belonging to Messrs. Crowther and Smith, and the Broad and Crown Glass company, and the aid of the work-people and the neighbours, the fire was got under, but not without considerable damage being done. The fire broke out in a part of the premises near the office, caused by a beam taking fire, being placed near a stove; the roof of the office, part of the roof of the foundry, and the joiner's shop were totally burnt, and a large number of models, &c., destroyed. The North British, Newcastle, and North of England and Newcastle fire engines were in attendance, but the conflagration had nearly subsided before the arrival of the two latter engines. The premises were insured in the Leeds and Yorkshire office. The Ouseburn Flint Mill company kindly opened their sluices to let the water come down, as it was low water, at the time, which was of essential service.—*Ibid.*

October.—Some time during this month, Mr. William Mather, a respectable builder of Newcastle, came into the possession of an immense fortune, amounting to between £200,000. and £300,000. sterling. About twenty years previous Alexander Adams, esq., who resided in Northumberland street, Newcastle, bequeathed an immense fortune, amassed in commerce, to his natural son, resident in India.

The fortunate devisee did not live long to enjoy his wealth ; but died at Calcutta, a bachelor, leaving all he possessed to his cousin by his mother's side, Mr. Thomas Naters, who was settled near New York, in the United States of America. This last named gentleman died sometime this month, in Switzerland, leaving, under his will, these immense riches to Mr. Mather.—*Local Papers.*

1836 (Oct. 28).—Friday, in the evening, Newcastle and neighbourhood were visited by a heavy fall of snow, which continued with little intermission until the following day. Snow also fell during Sunday, and the weather did not change until Tuesday evening, when the wind veered to the W. and the snow disappeared. It was considered a very rare occurrence to see snow in October.—*Ibid.*

NOTE.—The Obituary of Dr. Van Mildert, given at p. 300, was copied from the Gentlemen's Magazine for April 1836. In the minor correspondence of that Magazine for the succeeding month appears the following:—"With respect to Bishop Van Mildert's parliamentary conduct on the Catholic Question, we inconsiderately followed a newspaper statement. He resisted to the last what has been commonly called Catholic Emancipation, and a speech of his *against* the Bill of 1829 may be found in the Mirror of Parliament." "It was also a mis-statement, that no previous Protestant Bishop had been buried in Durham Cathedral."



STONE STAIR. DURHAM CATHEDRAL.

CHAPTER XIV.



IN the month of October 1836, the great west window of St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle, which had been for a considerable time in course of restoration, was completed. The stone-work was partially renewed, and the window newly glazed with stained glass; the arms of the corporation, beautifully executed, occupying the centre, in compliment to that body for the very liberal manner in which they contributed toward its repairs.—*Local Papers.*

October 29.—A flock of wild geese, thirty-nine in number, passed close over the tops of the houses in Newcastle.—*Ibid.*

October 31.—As Thomas Knox, aged 51, a pitman employed at Little Houghton colliery, Northumberland, was hewing, he accidentally broke into an old working, and the water immediately rushed upon him, so as to prevent his escape. Knox's son and others who were near the shaft saved themselves, but were unable to render any assistance to Knox, whose body was not got out of the working until Sunday, November 30th. He left a widow and five children.—*Ibid.*

This month, a fossil mushroom, measuring four inches in diameter, was found by Wm. Bird, in Cowpen pit, Northumberland, the first ever found in that colliery; also a cockle and a muscle, in a petrified state. Several of the latter had been found there before, and a few years previously a petrified fish was found imbedded in the coal.—*Ibid.*

October.—There was found in a field in the neighbourhood of Berwick, a shilling coined in the reign of the "good Queen Bess." It was in a state of good preservation, but without date.—*Ibid.*

November 5.—The body of John Hutchinson, serjeant in the

Durham militia, was found in the river Tees, about four miles from Barnardcastle. He had been missing two days, and is supposed to have fallen into the river. On the day of Hutchinson's interment, an awfully sudden death occurred in Barnardcastle. A young man, named Carnell, sent a boy to meet the funeral procession, and requested him to run forward and tell him when it reached the town. Before the boy returned, however, Carnell himself was a corpse. He took ill directly after sending the boy away, and died in a few minutes. He was a very fine young man, about 25 years of age, and much respected.—*Local Papers*.

1836 (Nov. 6).—The chapel at Horton, near South Shields, was opened for divine service, by the rev. Wm. Coward, incumbent of Westoe chapel. The building was erected entirely by subscription; and stands in a central situation, between the parishes of Jarrow and Whitburn.—*Ibid*.

November 9.—The following gentlemen were elected mayors and sheriffs for the year 1836-7:—

NEWCASTLE.—Joseph Lamb, esq. mayor; Anthony Nichol, esq. sheriff.

GATESHEAD.—Michael Hall, esq. mayor.

SUNDERLAND.—Andrew White, esq. mayor.

DURHAM.—T. Greenwell, esq. mayor.

STOCKTON.—Christopher Lodge, esq. mayor.

MORPETH.—Robert Blakey, esq. mayor.

BERWICK.—John Miller Dickson, esq. mayor; William Riddell, esq. sheriff.—*Ibid*.

November 10.—Died, in East street, South Shields, aged 71, Mr. John Winter. He was supposed to have been the last survivor of the crew who sailed with Governor Phillips to Botany bay in 1787, when he was second officer in the boat which discovered Port Jackson, and was the first European who landed at Sydney Cove.—*Ibid*.

November 10.—The lord bishop of Durham visited Newcastle for the purpose of presiding at a meeting of the Natural History Society. On his arrival in the great room of the Literary and Philosophical Society, an address from the corporation was presented to his lordship by the mayor (J. Lamb, esq.), congratulating him on his elevation to the see of Durham. After receiving the address of the council, the bishop examined the museum, and afterwards proceeded to the lecture-room where the meeting of the Society was held. In the evening, the members of the Society and their friends to the number of 90, dined together in their own rooms, C. W. Bigge, esq., in the chair, where the bishop, and several other gentlemen honoured them with their presence.—*Ibid*.

1836 (Nov. 11).—Friday, the western division of the Newcastle general Cemetery, at Jesmond, was consecrated by the bishop of Durham in the usual manner. His lordship, after attending divine service at St. Andrew's church, went to the cemetery at 12 o'clock, accompanied by the mayor and several members of the corporation, as well as by the vicar and other clergymen. The morning was cold and damp, which rendered the ceremony of walking about the grounds rather uncomfortable, notwithstanding which a great number of persons attended to witness the proceedings.—*Local Papers*.

Same day, the bishop (grand visitor of the Infirmary,) visited the institution. His lordship was received in the governors' hall by all the medical officers, and the rev. the vicar, the rev. J. Collinson, the rev. William Turner, Mr. Potter, Mr. Brumell, and Mr. P. G. Ellison, members of the house committee. His lordship minutely inspected the wards and other apartments, and was pleased to make the following entry in the house visitors' book :—*Ibid*.

"Nov. 11.—Visited the wards and other apartments; gratified to see them so spacious and well aired; tasted the bread and beer, which are excellent; every thing in the hospital bespeaks the attention paid to the health and comfort of the inmates, while many decisive proofs were afforded of the success with which the skill of the medical officers has, under divine providence, been attended.

"E. DUNELM, Grand Visitor."

On the following Sunday, the annual sermon for the benefit of the Infirmary was preached at St. Nicholas church, by the bishop, to one of the most numerous congregations ever seen at that church, when his lordship delivered a most impressive and highly talented discourse, from the 29th chapter of Job, the 15th and 16th verses—"I was eyes to the blind, and feet was I to the lame. I was a father to the poor." The collection amounted to £79. 7s., being a much larger sum than was ever collected on any similar occasion.—*Ibid*.

November 12th—Saturday, an explosion took place in Jarrow pit, near South Shields, by which four young men were injured: two of them so severely that little hope was entertained of their recovery.—*Ibid*.

November 14.—Monday, the bishop of Durham paid a visit to the Royal Grammar School, Newcastle, on which occasion he begged a holiday for the boys. His lordship made several inquiries respecting Dawes, who many years ago belonged to this school, and obtained a high proficiency in classical literature. On the following day he visited the Clergy Jubilee-Schools and was pleased to express his entire approbation of the appearance, order, and good behaviour of the boys and girls in both schools, and with the proficiency which

they displayed in reading, and in answering the various questions proposed to them. His lordship also expressed his approbation of the proficiency of the boys in writing, arithmetic, mensuration, &c. His lordship having noticed one of the boys barefooted very humanely requested the rev. the vicar to procure him stockings and shoes at his lordship's expense, there being no other boy, of nearly 400 present, barefooted.—*Local Papers.*

1836 (Nov. 16).—On the evening of this day the rev. T. Frognall Dibdin, D. D., was entertained on his return from Scotland, by several bibliographical friends, at a dinner in the room of the Antiquarian Society of Newcastle, John Clayton, esq., town clerk, in the chair, supported by John Adamson, esq., in the vice-chair. The appropriateness of the place afforded high satisfaction to their distinguished guest, who enlivened the company with his anecdotes and humorous sallies. It is seldom that a more happy and joyous party ever met, and all departed much pleased with their guest and their entertainment.—*Ibid.*

November 16.—It was announced by advertisement, that the Newcastle-upon-Tyne general Cemetery, was ready for interments; and that a considerable number of catacombs under the chapel, and of vaults in both the consecrated and unconsecrated portions of the Cemetery, were prepared for sale. The ground for the cemetery, both with regard to situation and extent, has been judiciously selected. A company was formed in January 1834, to raise the sum of £6,900 by 345 shares of £20 each, 90 of which shares were taken by the corporation as the price of the land, which consists of 15 acres—ten within the enclosure and five without—situate at a short distance beyond Carlton-terrace, between the New-road and Benton-lane. From the road there is a massive archway entrance betwixt the towers of two convenient chapels, built of beautifully veined freestone,



GATEWAY OF JESMOND CEMETERY.

after a chaste and appropriate design by John Dobson, esq., forming a very ornamental structure at this approach to the town. There is also an entrance from Benton-lane, within which stands the keeper's lodge a neatly designed building; the architecture of this gate, though, less elaborate and imposing than the one just described, is, nevertheless, very handsome. The cemetery is laid out and planted with great taste, and enclosed with a lofty wall. The freehold of the property in each of the portions into which this place of interment may be considered as divided, is conveyed by separate deeds to seven trustees elected by the shareholders, but in the financial concerns of the company there is no division, the purchase money for all vaults, graves, headstones, &c., in every part of the ground, being paid to the treasurer as part of the funds of the company. Thus the purchaser holds his vault by a freehold title durable as the civil institutions of his country. The first interment in the new Cemetery was that of Margaret Redford, second daughter of Mr. George Hoy, formerly a grocer in Newcastle. She died at Jesmond on the 6th Dec. aged 14 years.—*Local Papers*.

1836 (Nov. 19).—A number of fishermen of Hartlepool were placed in imminent danger in consequence of a boisterous wind having suddenly arisen while they were engaged in their perilous employment at a distance from the coast. Twenty-six boats were at sea, each containing three men, and there seemed at one time little chance of any of them escaping destruction; the life-boat was launched, and, manned by a gallant crew, proceeded to their assistance. One boat was swamped, and her crew, consisting of three brothers named Davidson, were observed from the shore struggling in the sea, and clinging to their vessel. They were happily picked up by some of the other fishermen, and landed in safety. The remainder of the fishing cobles also reached the shore under convoy of the life-boat without having lost a man. During this affecting scene, the shrieks of the women, the cries of the children, and the mental agony of old Davidson, the father of the above-named young men, and who had before lost one or two sons at sea, were most appalling.—*Ibid*.

November 21.—On the morning of this day, Monday a body of water, supposed to be from the sea, broke into a pit at Whitley colliery near North Shields. With great presence of mind, every person employed in the mine at the time hastened to the shaft on the first indication of danger, and were speedily all brought safe to bank. A number of horses, however, suffered under ground.—The shaft of the mine is situated about a mile from, but the workings extend near to the sea.—*Ibid*.

November 23—A meeting was convened on the evening of this day

in the Town-chamber, Gateshead, to adopt measures for securing the establishment of a Literary, Scientific, and Mechanical Institution in that town. Gateshead had hitherto been without an institution of this kind, its proximity to Newcastle having enabled the inhabitants to avail themselves of the Literary Institution on that side of the water. The meeting which was numerous and respectable, was addressed by Messrs Rowntree, Brockett, W. L. Harle, and others, and a series of resolutions passed. Several valuable donations were presented in the shape of books, &c., and cash to a considerable amount.—*Local Papers*.

1836 (Nov. 26).—The "Newcastle Standard," a newspaper edited by Mr. C. Larkin, was begun, but after a few weeks' papers had been published, it was discontinued.—*Ibid*.

Nov. 27.—Died, at Alnwick, in the workhouse, aged 70. John Wallace, a gardener, formerly sexton and bellman at Alnwick. He was reputed to be "weather-wise," or gifted with the faculty of foretelling atmospheric changes, and was occasionally consulted by those who valued his opinion, and had faith in his predictions; though it would appear that his supposed predictive powers were not used for his own guidance, for in his vocation of common crier he always concluded his announcement of the time of vessels sailing, &c., with the doubting and contingent clause—"if wind and weather permit."—*Ibid*.

November 28.—A public meeting of the inhabitants of Bedlington and vicinity was held in the National School Room, on the evening of this day, Monday, for the purpose of establishing a Public Library and Reading Room, which was most respectably attended. The rev. G. Thompson, minister of Horton (in the absence of the rev. E. G. Ogle, vicar of Bedlington,) was called to the chair, when several resolutions were passed, and some most powerful appeals made in aid of the institution and a provisional committee was formed for carrying the object of the meeting into effect.—*Ibid*.

November 29.—Tuesday; the gable wall of a new house building in South-street, Bishopwearmouth, fell down, by which three of the workmen were severely bruised.—*Ibid*.

This month, a singular discovery of a seam of coal was made in Berwick. While some alterations were being made in the pavement in the yard behind Mr Ralph Smith's house in Bridge-street, the workmen dug up a quantity of coal. Curiosity dictated a further search, and the consequence was that at the depth of about 6 inches from the surface, they came upon a seam of coal, which measured 3 feet 1 inch in thickness. The quality was put to the test, and pronounced excellent. The treasure, however, was not improved, but was again

covered in with the earth. Several years previously a similar discovery was made in Eastern Lane, the present, therefore appears to be a continuation of that seam.—*Local Papers.*

1836 (Dec.)—This month, as a family were removing from a village near Darlington, they observed a redbreast following them, which took their attention very much. On more closely noticing it, it was recognized as a bird which they had fed before they left the village. It continued its flight until it arrived at the place of their destination, a distance of about eighteen miles, and finally found its way into the very house which the family were about to occupy.—*Ibid.*

December 1.—A meeting of the inhabitants of Sunderland, was held this day, at the Exchange buildings in that town, the hon. and rev. G. V. Wellesley, in the chair, for the purpose of promoting the erection of a memorial in honour of Rowland Burdon, esq., as the founder of the celebrated iron bridge over the river Wear, at Sunderland, commonly called Wearmouth bridge. Resolutions were passed, and a special committee appointed for the purpose of carrying them into effect.—*Ibid.*

December 2.—Friday, about 12 o'clock, at night the inhabitants of Darlington were alarmed by a special messenger from Sadberge, about five miles distant from the town, announcing that the house belonging to Mr. Christopher Richmond, of Sadberge, tanner, was on fire. Immediately the engine belonging to the Norwich Union, and that belonging to the parish, were in readiness, and all necessary assistance was on the spot in little more than half an hour. When the firemen arrived, an awful spectacle presented itself, the fire having made devastating progress. The flames continued to rage with great fury till about three o'clock in the morning, when they were subdued. By the exertions of the firemen the whole house was not destroyed; but all the furniture, save what was in a single room, and some very valuable papers and documents were consumed. The house, which belonged to Mr. Richmond, with its contents, were not insured; but deeply afflictive as the circumstance was, it was greatly mitigated by the consideration that a numerous family were providentially delivered from the devouring flames.—*Ibid.*

December 5.—The neighbourhood of Newcastle was visited by a fierce gale. A woman residing in Saltwellside, near Gateshead, was unfortunately killed by the fall of a chimney. The Joint Stock Banking Company's premises, in the Arcade Newcastle, suffered in the glass domes, by chimneys falling in. Part of a high wall in Percy-street was blown over, and the river for several hours was completely impassable. The steam-ferry or steam-boat could not cross the river at Shields, with passengers, and many were detained all night on

both the North and South sides; one boat with a man in it was driven out to sea.—*Local Papers.*



Western Extremity of the NORTHERN AISLE of the CHANCEL of the CHURCH of SAINT NICHOLAS, in NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE: looking across the N. Transcept to the N. Aisle of the Nave, and to the Chantry of S. John the Baptist: as it appeared previous to the alterations of 1710, and (with the exception of the more distant window) until the innovations of 1783. Restored from existing remains, Old Plans, MSS. Brand, Bourne, Waters, &c.

1836 (Dec.)—Early in this month, a mural monument was erected in St. Nicholas' church, Newcastle, by order of lord Eldon, in memory of the late William Scott, esquire, his lordship's father. The monument was designed and executed by Mr. Elger, sculptor, Park-lane, London. It is studiously plain, but very neat, being surmounted with a beautifully executed vase, partially covered with drapery, and on the tablet is the following inscription:—"In Memory of MR. WILLIAM SCOTT, Freeman and Hostman of this town, who was buried in All Saints' Church, November 1776. He left to his family a rich inheritance in the example of a life of industry unremitting, of probity unsullied, and of piety most pure and sincere. This tablet is placed here by one of his affectionate sons."

December 14.—A coroner's inquest was held at West Rainton, co. Durham, before T. C. Maynard, esq., coroner. on view of the body of Catherine, daughter of Mr. John Reed, farmer, of that place, a

little girl about ten years of age who, died from the effects of a wound received by the bursting of a gun on the 9th of the same month. There had been a wedding in the village, and according to a custom prevalent in the colliery districts, the happy company were followed by parties firing guns over their heads. When opposite to Mr. Reed's passage, a gun burst, and part of the barrel carried away the right temple of the deceased, and lodged behind the eye of Mr. R.'s servant, both of whom were standing at the door. The servant was severely wounded, and lost an eye. The unfortunate deceased, whose brains protruded the wound, lingered till the following Saturday, when she expired. It was proved on the inquest that John Ranson, the person who fired the gun, had been warned to desist by the parish clerk, and he was committed to Durham jail charged with manslaughter, on the coroner's warrant, but was acquitted of the charge at the Durham Spring assizes, 1837.—*Local Papers.*

1836 (Dec. 14).—The Gateshead Poor Law Union was formed. The union comprises the parishes and townships of Gateshead, Heworth, Winlaton, Whickham, Ryton, Ryton Woodside, Crawcrook, Stella, and Chopwell.—*Ibid.*

December 16.—A letter from America, was received at Houghton-le-Spring, directed "Easington Lane, Hetton, Durham, England," but without any name, and it happened that when the letter carrier was going his round, a woman came to him and asked him if he had any letters from America, and it oddly enough proved to be from her son.—*Ibid.*

December 17.—Died, at Haltwhistle, Northumberland, at the advanced age of 82 years, Elizabeth Cuthbertson, a maiden lady. The deceased sprung from a very ancient family in Northumberland, was lady of an extensive manor about Haltwhistle, and possessed property which had been estimated to be worth £2,000 per annum. She was well educated, and brought up in every respect as a lady of good fortune ought to be. She had a brother and a sister; the former, who was very fond of fox hunting and the habits generally congenial with that sport, died many years previously, leaving the deceased, heir to the whole of this valuable property. Shortly after the demise of her sister, Miss Cuthbertson became exceedingly strange in her manners and eccentric in her conduct. She chose for her abode the second story of a miserable abode in Haltwhistle, the door of which was nearly constantly locked, and many of the windows bricked up to shut out the gaze of inquisitive people. Here she lived alone, and the wealth with which she was blessed, and which might have been a source of blessing to all around her, was allowed to accumulate, as she invariably refused all applications to improve

the estate, or render those around her more comfortable. For the latter part of her life her exclusiveness became more strict and her solitude more remarkable; she kept no steward, or servant, or any one to look after her affairs, or manage her property, and consequently much inconvenience was sustained by all the neighbourhood. Towards her tenants she behaved in a very peculiar manner; it is said that there were some who had not paid any rent for a great number of years; there were others who paid a portion of the rent due only, and both these descriptions of tenants she allowed to live upon the respective tenures they occupied, because they owed her money, but those who paid the whole of their rents she immediately discharged. It is said by those who had occasional access to her that she had a fine intelligent countenance, but it was clouded with austerity, and a little more cleanliness would have made it more agreeable. During the last few years of her life she declined transacting any business in the most positive manner, and no inducements or persuasions could prevail upon her to abandon her system of non-intercourse with the world.—*Local Papers.*

1836 (Dec. 21).—The first general meeting of the members of the Mechanics' Institute, or Literary and Scientific Society, of the borough of Gateshead, was held in the town-hall, Oakwellgate, James Pollock, esq., in the chair, when communications from several noblemen and gentlemen, who had been solicited to patronize and support this society, were read by Mr. Kell, one of the secretaries pro. tem., and, generally, met the cordial approbation of the meeting. The secretaries were requested to communicate the thanks of the meeting to those noblemen and gentlemen who had so very liberally given their patronage and support to the society. Reports of the committees to form rules for the Institute, and to superintend the fitting up of apartments for their use, were received and approved. The donation list was next submitted to the meeting, amounting to nearly £105. in money, as also upwards of 190 volumes of very valuable books, a pair of globes, and electric and other scientific apparatus.—*Ibid.*

December 23.—About four o'clock on the morning of this day, Friday, a fire broke out in a sail loft in Messrs. Smith's dock yard at St. Peter's quay. The shipwrights who lived near the spot hastened to render every assistance, on an alarm being given, and it being high tide the docks were filled, so that an abundant supply of water was speedily obtained. The engine from sir M. W. Ridley and Co.'s glass-house was promptly on the ground, and was of very great service. The engines from the different fire offices in Newcastle attended, but the fire was so nearly extinguished when they arrived, that it was not thought necessary that they should play. The accident

originated in a stove, a plate of iron at the bottom of which had become too much heated, and fired to the floor.—*Local Papers.*

1836 (Dec. 23).—On the morning of this day, Friday, a sharp frost set in, with a heavy fall of snow, which continued throughout that and the two following days with increasing severity, and being accompanied by a high wind from the north east, the snow drifted very much, and, consequently, the roads to the north and south of Newcastle soon became impassable. The mails from the south were, on some occasions, twenty-five hours behind their time, and Monday's mail from the north was thirty-four hours behind. The greatest obstructions in the north, were between Felton and Alnwick, and from Buckton Burn to Berwick, but particularly on the latter portion of the road, in consequence of little exertion having been used to clear a passage. Two mails were abandoned at this place, and one near Shilbottle lane-end, about two miles south from Alnwick, and the bags forwarded on horseback, and in chaises. North of Berwick, there was comparatively little snow, and it will afford some idea of the obstruction south of that place to state, that though the mail arrived there at three o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, it did not reach Belford, a distance of only sixteen miles, before three on Thursday morning. All communication to the north by coach was completely stopped for several days, no conveyance having reached Newcastle from that quarter, from Saturday night until Thursday afternoon, when Monday's Union arrived. The coaches which set out for the north on Monday morning were all stopped before they had proceeded far; the High-flyer at Weldon bridge, and the Chevy Chase near Ponteland; the Union and Royal William reached Belford on Wednesday night, and the Wonder was stopped at Newton. A passenger (the only one) in the Chevy Chase coach from Newcastle furnished particulars of the journey, which reflect much credit on the activity and perseverance of the guard, John Barron, and the coachman, Jonathan Bowron. The coach left Newcastle at eight o'clock on Monday morning, and reached Edinburgh at ten o'clock on Thursday night. The snow in some parts of their route was twelve feet in depth, and it required three days to perform three stages. Notwithstanding these obstructions, however, the guard and coachman persevered, and sometimes with four, sometimes with six horses, by diverging occasionally into fields, and carrying the coach frequently over hedges and ditches, they contrived to reach their goal in the time mentioned. It is remarkable that the trains on the railway between Newcastle and Carlisle were scarcely impeded at all; they ran regularly all the time, and would not have been at all behind, if it had not been for the delay caused by the coaches on

the intermediate part of the line. From the storm on land, only one loss of life has been recorded—that of a poor man who was found dead in the neighbourhood of Stokesley. The list of casualties on the coasts of Northumberland and Durham, however, included the loss of many valuable lives and much property.—*Local Papers*.

1836 (Dec. 25).—At night, an explosion of foul air took place in the five-quarter seam of High Heworth colliery, near Gateshead, by which one man was severely burnt. The accident arose from what is called by the pitmen, a sudden “waft,” and was very limited in its extent, as three other men, working near the sufferer, escaped unhurt. On the morning of Tuesday the 27th, another accident occurred at the same colliery, but in a different part of the mine, called the Hutton seam. On this latter occasion, two men lost their lives, and a third was severely injured. The explosion took place at a part where there was a communication with the five-quarter seam. The bodies of the unfortunate men were recovered almost immediately, and an inquest was held on them on the 28th, and from the evidence adduced, there could be no doubt that the cause of the accident, like most of those which occur in coal mines, was to be attributed to the circumstance of one of the sufferers, a heedless young man, having neglected those precautions on entering the mine, which, from the previous accident in the five-quarter seam, rendered prudence absolutely necessary. No blame was attributable to the managers of the mine, and the jury returned a verdict of “accidental death.”—*Ibid*.

December.—Operations commenced on the Newcastle and North Shields railway.—*Ibid*.

This year, lady Ravensworth caused to be erected, at her own expence, at Lamesley, a neat, substantial, and commodious Alms-house, containing eight apartments, for the reception of poor and aged females. Her ladyship also munificently endowed the erection with the sum of £50 per annum.—*Ibid*.

The quantity of coals shipped from the river Tyne, in the year 1836, London and coastwise alone, amounted to 754,961 Newcastle chaldrons. Of the land and water sale of coals on the Tyne no public entry is made; but it has been ascertained that it approximates to 200,000 Newcastle chaldrons annually. The over-sea sale is not here taken into account: so that the Tyne vend of coals for the year may be safely put down at 770,000 Newcastle chaldrons of 53 cwt. each; or two millions, forty thousand, five hundred tons. Reduced to tons, the vend of the river Wear for the same period is one million, fifty-five thousand four hundred and thirteen; being rather more than half the enormous vend of the Tyne.—*Ibid*.



SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

1837 (Jan. 1).—A handsome and commodious chapel of ease, in the parish of Shotley, was opened for divine service, when an eloquent and appropriate sermon was preached on the occasion by the rev. W. N. Darnell, rector of Stanhope. Lord Crewe's trustees, the patrons, endowed the chapel and very liberally subscribed towards its erection.—*Local Papers*.

January 2.—Monday, a human skeleton was found about one and a half feet below the surface of the north-east side of Sunderland moor. It was full grown, and is considered to have been a female. From appearances, it must have lain in the ground many years.—*Ibid*.

January 3.—A swan was shot upon the river at Blyth, weighing 21½lbs. by Mr. John Hutton, and Mr. James Tate, who fired together.—*Ibid*.

January 3.—The sale of the Mansion house furniture, books, pictures and plate, commenced on this day, pursuant to the decision of the corporate body on the seventh of December, 1836. The proceeding met the approbation of some, but was highly disapproved of by the mass, who very justly regarded the disposal of property left in trust for the use of the corporation *for ever*, as an act, indefensible, and the more so, when it is remembered that the ultimate decision was arrived at, by the trifling majority of four. A hasty reference to the pages of Brand will satisfy us of the species and terms of the tenure on which the various gifts to the corporate body were held, and which had been faithfully observed by our progenitors for more than two hundred years recorded, and perhaps still more. The piece of plate to which we particularly and at present allude, was sold to a silversmith of the town for the price of *old metal*. The bowl was of solid silver, and nearly five feet in circumference. The sale was but

poorly attended. The following is a copy of the auctioneer's advertisement.

**"MANSION HOUSE,
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.**

THE WHOLE OF THE ELEGANT HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE; together with the PLATE, LINEN, GLASS, CHINA, PAINTINGS, PRINTS, BOOKS, and other VALUABLE EFFECTS,

IN THE MANSION HOUSE,

Will be SOLD by AUCTION, ON THE PREMISES, *by direction of the Council of the Borough*, on TUESDAY, the 3rd DAY OF JANUARY, 1837, AND FOLLOWING DAYS, (*Saturdays excepted*,) at 11 o'clock in the forenoon of each day,

By J. & G. EWART,

Included in the complete suite of DRAWING ROOM, DINING ROOM, PARLOUR, and BED ROOM FURNITURE, to be offered to UNRESERVED COMPETITION, will be found *a rich toned PIANO-FORTE, by Broadwood; a BRILLIANT CHIMNEY GLASS of unusually large dimensions, in a rich gilded frame;*

A THREE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIVE DAY CLOCK. in a beautiful japanned case, presenting a curious and almost unique specimen of Horology; *the sumptuous furnishings of the*

STATE BED-CHAMBER;

AN ANTIQUE OAK SETTLE,

Embellished with elaborate carvings, representing the evangelists and scriptural subjects, *in the finest preservation;*

NEARLY THREE THOUSAND OUNCES OF SILVER
PLATE;

THE BED AND TABLE LINEN, AND BLANKETS,

Are of the very best description, and a considerable part nearly new;

THE PICTURES

Are the works of eminent local artists;

THE ENGRAVINGS

Are by the first masters of the day, and comprise the best portraits of THEIR PRESENT MAJESTIES, of GEORGE THE FOURTH, *and numerous other illustrious personages of the age;* the whole are early impressions, and many of them *proofs before letters;* glazed, and in the most elegant and appropriate frames.

THE LIBRARY

Contains a choice selection of miscellaneous works, many of them in rich bindings, comprising amongst others D'Oyly and Mant's Bible 3 vols., 4to; Johnston's Dictionary, 3 vols., 4to.; *Horsley's Britannia Romana; the Declaration and Treaties between Charles the First and*

his Parliament, folio calf, 1662; Gray's Chorographia; Lingard's History of England; Sydney Hall's General Atlas; the whole of Greenwood's County Maps, in numbers; besides numerous law books, acts of parliament, parliamentary reports, &c. &c. Also

THE COPPERS, VESSELS, COOLER, and OTHER BREWING UTENSILS, capable of brewing *fourteen half barrels at a time.*

N. B. The sale of the plate, linen, paintings, prints, and books, will occupy the FIRST FOUR DAYS.

The FURNITURE, &c., may be viewed by catalogue only, on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday previous to the commencement of the sale; and CATALOGUES, price one shilling each, will be ready on SATURDAY, the 24th DECEMBER, and may be had of all the booksellers; and at the principal inns in Newcastle; at the principal inns in the neighbouring towns; and of JOHN & GEORGE EWART, land-surveyors, auctioneers, &c. No. 4, Butcher Bank, Newcastle.

Newcastle upon Tyne, 15th December, 1836."—*Local Papers.*

1837 (Jan. 4).—An inquest was held on the body of Robert Rippon, a boy seven years of age, residing at Stepney square. It appeared that the deceased and another boy were playing near the Pottery at Stepney, when a young man of the name of John Harris (aged 15) coming past, snatched a stick from the deceased, with which he struck him on the back and neck. After the blow the deceased ran for about fifteen yards, towards home, and fell. He was immediately taken up, but died in a few minutes. From a post-mortem examination, it appeared that the internal jugular vein was ruptured from the blow on the neck. The jury returned a verdict of manslaughter against Harris, who was tried at the Newcastle spring assizes, found guilty, and sentenced to be imprisoned till the rising of the court.—*Ibid.*

January 4.—At a meeting of the town council of the borough of Gateshead, held on this day, Mr. Price stated that a large number of lodging houses in certain streets of the borough, were filled by disreputable characters, driven from Newcastle by the vigilance of the police of that town. Mr. Rowntree suggested that it would be better to say nothing about the matter, as it would serve as an invitation to such persons to seek lodgings there in greater numbers; to which Mr. Brockett replied that having heard of as many as seventeen being found in one bed, it seemed as if the lodgings were already full.—*Ibid.*

January 7.—This day, Saturday, the winning of the new colliery at Woodhouse close, near Bishop-Auckland, the property of Messrs. Flintoff, was successfully accomplished; the main coal seam having been found in great perfection at a depth of seventy-four fathoms.—*Ibid.*

1837 (Jan. 8).—Sunday, in the evening, between eleven and twelve o'clock, a fire broke out at High Heworth colliery, which very fortunately was got under before any material damage was sustained. The fire, which was entirely confined to the upper works, is supposed to have been occasioned by some sparks having been blown from a short rope or torch, left by some men who had commenced working, as a light for others who had to follow. Engines were speedily dispatched from Newcastle, but before they reached the spot the conflagration was so far subdued as to render their services unnecessary.—*Local Papers.*

January 9.—This day, Monday, the sheriff of Berwick upon Tweed presented the recorder with a pair of white kid gloves, a usual compliment on the occasion of a maiden sessions. On presenting the gift, the sheriff intimated the high satisfaction he experienced in having such a pleasing duty to perform.—*Ibid.*

January 10.—In consequence of a very rapid thaw, accompanied with rain, which commenced on the previous day, the river Tyne became alarmingly swollen, overflowing its banks in various places and doing considerable injury. At Scotswood it burst into two rows of houses, fourteen in number, between four and five o'clock in the morning, and speedily rose in them to the height of five feet. In the course of the same night, a cistern of water, at the paint-manufactory at Paradise, burst and overflowed some houses and gardens in its vicinity. A keel was sunk below the chain bridge, but it was weighed the same day. At Dunston the water entered a number of the cottage houses and very rapidly rose to breast height in some of them. The haughs and shores were all overflowed, but at neither side was there any particular loss sustained. The inconvenience of wet bedding and furniture, however, was severely felt by the poor inhabitants of the cottages by the water side. Early in the morning the water rose considerably on the quay at Newcastle and overflowed some of the cellars, but the damage was not extensive. One of the old cannons on the quay for mooring vessels to, was torn up, having four vessels attached to it at the time; but the whole were righted again without serious injury. At Hexham and Corbridge, and most places on the banks of the Tyne, the flood was severely felt, and many persons were of opinion that it had not been so high since 1815. The railway wall, near Farnley, was slightly injured, but caused no interruption to travelling. The Wear and other rivers in the neighbourhood were similarly flooded, but without any serious damage.—*Ibid.*

January 12.—Thursday, an alarming fire broke out in the patent rope manufactory of R. Webster, esq., at Deptford, near Sunderland,

on the side of the Wear. It was discovered a short time after the work had commenced, about half-past seven in the morning, and appeared to have been caused by a spark produced from the friction of two wheels, and emitted on a quantity of dry oakum which ignited, and blazed with great fury. The alarm was given by a young woman who first saw the danger, a messenger was dispatched to Sunderland for assistance, and the military were called out. Five engines were soon brought to the spot; but, in consequence of the dense smoke and the excessive heat, it was some time before they could be put in operation. In the adjoining buildings, a quantity of tar in barrels and other materials were deposited; to prevent the fire from communicating to which, part of the warehouse wall was broken down, and the barrels, &c., thrown out into the river. Several ships were moored in front of the ropery, which were in great danger, the chains of four were cut and the vessels moved. As soon as it was practicable, the engines were put to work, and every exertion was used to preserve as much of the property as possible; but, notwithstanding every effort, the whole of the extensive manufactory, with its machinery, &c., was burned to the ground. A quantity of manufactured rope, hemp, &c., was also totally destroyed. Great credit attached to Major F. O. Leighton, of the 56th regiment, and the officers and soldiers under his command, whose exertions were beyond all praise, and to the police officers of Sunderland, and many other persons who rendered great assistance. The loss amounted to nearly £60,000., about two-thirds of which amount was insured.—*Local Papers.*

1837 (Jan. 13).—This being the day appointed for laying the foundations of the two great bridges over the Ouseburn and Willington dean, on the line of the Newcastle and North Shields railway, John Hodgson Hinde, esq., M. P., vice-chairman, proceeded to Willington dean, where he was met at twelve o'clock by a number of the directors and shareholders, the engineer, architect, &c., and notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, also by a considerable assemblage of spectators. The preliminary arrangements having been made, Mr. Hodgson Hinde shortly addressed those present, informing them that he attended there that day as the deputy of Matthew Bell, esq., M. P., the chairman of the company, by whom it had been arranged, that the foundation of that stupendous structure should have been laid, but who, he was sorry to say, was prevented by severe indisposition from attending. He trusted that the line of railway, with which the bridges were connected, would greatly promote the interests and be highly conducive to the convenience of the neighbourhood, and, that in the course of two years, they should again have the pleasure of meeting to assist in the opening of the railroad. He then

read the inscription on the brass plate to be deposited in the foundation; the inscription stated that the foundation-stone of that bridge was laid on the 13th of January, 1837, by M. Bell, esq., M. P., for South Northumberland, and enumerated the names of the chairman, vice-chairman, and directors; of the solicitors; of Mr. Green, the architect of the bridge; Mr. Nicholson, the engineer to the railroad; Mr. John Straker, consulting-engineer; and Mr. W. Swan, clerk. The plate, together with several coins of the present reign, was then placed between glass plates, and plaster being poured upon them, Mr. H. Hinde spread it around with a silver trowel. The stone was then placed on its bed, and the usual ceremonies being gone through, nine hearty cheers were given by all present, and the proceeding terminated. Mr. Hinde, the Directors, &c., after partaking of a glass of wine at the Willington colliery office, proceeded to the house of John Grace, esq., at Point Pleasant, and partook of a sumptuous luncheon prepared for them. After leaving Mr. Grace's, the party again assembled at the Ouseburn, near the Lead works, where the foundation of the bridge over that burn was laid in a similar manner to that at Willington, the plate, however, stated that it was laid by John Hodgson Hinde, esq., M. P. for Newcastle. In the evening the directors and several friends dined together at the George Inn, in Newcastle, Mr. Hodgson Hinde presided, and the Vice-chair was filled by Richard Spoor, esq., of Whitburn. Various toasts appropriate to the occasion were given, and in attending to the proceedings of the day, the chairman paid a well merited compliment to Mr. Green for the ingenuity and talent displayed in the designs of the bridges. The evening was spent with great hilarity. The bridges alluded to are of great extent, and of peculiar construction. That over Willington Dean is 1,050 feet long, and 76 feet high in the centre, and consists of seven segmental timber arches each 120 feet span, supporting a wooden platform, with stone piers and abutments. The Ouseburn bridge is 800 feet long and 138 feet high, and has five similar arches of 116 feet span, with stone piers and abutments, with an oblique arch through the western one. They are both calculated for a double line of railway, and that over Ouseburn for a foot-path, five feet wide on one side.—*Local Papers.*

1837 (Jan. 14 and 15).—Saturday and Sunday, fourteen persons were buried at Monkwearmouth, whose united ages amounted to 1004 years, being nearly 72 years each.—*Ibid.*

January 15.—Died, in Newcastle, aged 73, Mr. Michael Fothergill; and on the 17th inst. aged 73, Hannah, his wife. They were buried in one grave, and were followed to the place of interment by the whole of the work people in the Flax-mill, where he wrought, as

well as by a number of friends and neighbours, by all of whom they were highly respected. He had been upwards of fourteen years a faithful servant under Mr. W. B. Proctor.—*Local Papers.*

1837 (Jan. 18.)—Wednesday, an oratorio was performed on the opening of the new organ in Ovingham church, Northumberland, presented to the parish, by the vicar, the rev. James Birkett. The music, on the occasion, was selected with taste and judgment, and the performance (by the choir of St. Nicholas's, Newcastle,) highly gratifying. The munificent gift was acknowledged by a numerous and highly respectable audience.—*Ibid.*

January 21.—Died, in Old Elvet, Durham, aged 86, Mr. George Ashton. He entered the cathedral at seven years of age as a singing boy, and a few years afterwards was appointed one of the choristers, in which situation he remained until the day of his decease, having been altogether in the cathedral during the period of nearly eighty years. He was a kind-hearted and charitable man, ever ready to relieve distress; and the objects of his bounty during life have not been forgotten in the disposition of the property of which he died possessed. He bequeathed £100 to the Durham Infirmary, £100 to the United Blue Coat and Sunday Schools, £100 to the Society of the Sons of the Clergy, and £100 per annum to be divided amongst eight poor women. He also left £400 to his aged housekeeper. The bulk of his property, which was considerable, he bequeathed to very distant relatives.—*Ibid.*

January 21.—Died, at the Leazes-crescent, Newcastle, aged 56, Mr. John Sykes, editor of the "Local Records," and several interesting tracts on subjects connected with the history of the district, or illustrative of local events and character. For some time previous to his death, Mr. Sykes was engaged in the compilation of a third volume of the Local Records; and he had also prepared for the press a history of the printing business in Newcastle, interspersed with curious notices of the early printers, and copies of the title-pages of several scarce local works.—*Ibid.*

January 23.—Died, at Denwick, near Alnwick, aged 98, Mr. John Thew, farmer, the oldest freeman of the borough of Alnwick, and the last male descendant of a very ancient Northumbrian family, which, it is supposed, have held leases, under the noble house of Percy, for upwards of four hundred years; he retained the use of his faculties until within a short period of his decease. Few men have descended to the tomb, who have held a higher character than this respected individual.—*Ibid.*

January 26.—Wednesday, in the evening, a fire broke out in the attic of the canvass manufactory of Messrs. Cornforth and Co., near

the Custom house, Sunderland, which, for a short time, assumed a threatening aspect. The fire engines however were soon in attendance, and by prompt exertions the fire was extinguished without much damage being effected.—*Local Papers*.

1837 (Jan. 30).—Died, in New Bridge-street, Newcastle, much respected Mr. John Daglish, druggist and apothecary, Sandhill. As exemplifying Mr. Daglish's benevolent disposition, it may be stated that besides his exertions in promoting Infant and Sunday schools, he gratuitously vaccinated 17,000 children.—*Ibid*.

January 31.—Monday, two pitman belonging to Thornley colliery, Durham, of the names of Storey and Surtees, engaged to hew coals against each other for five guineas a-side. The tubs in which the coals were brought to bank contained 20 coal pecks, and the weight of coal put in each is 6 cwt. The wager was won by Storey hewing 33½ tubs, and Surtees 30 tubs, the former being 10 tons 1 cwt. and the latter 9 tons. The amount of Storey's earnings, according to the prices paid for hewing, would be 11s. and 2d., and that of Surtees, 10s. The hours of working were eight, and from the extreme hardness of the coal in the five quarter seam, the performance of each may be considered unprecedented.—*Ibid*.

At this period there were residing at Shincliffe, near Durham, under one roof, five generations, viz.:—Margaret Wilson, 98 years old; Ann Emmerson, 74, her daughter; Margaret Douglas, 43, grand-daughter; Ann Leroy, 20, great grand-daughter; Sarah Jane Leroy, great great grand-daughter, 4 months' old. The oldest of the above in full possession of her mental faculties, and generally employed every day in the household affairs.—*Ibid*.

February 3.—Died, at Morpeth, the rev. Edward Otter, brother of the bishop of Chichester, rector of Bothal, and prebendary of York; of whom it may be justly said that the neighbourhood in which he resided has lost a most valuable friend and adviser. His clear, active and comprehensive mind, which could grapple successfully with the most difficult subjects, was available at all times, even to the humblest individual. His delight was to do good, of which the Dispensary, Saving's bank, and Friendly society at Morpeth, bear ample testimony. His unremitted attention, also, both to the spiritual and temporal interests of his parishioners, and his benevolent interference with the duke of Portland in behalf of his grace's tenantry, will be long and gratefully remembered. He was indeed highly and deservedly respected when living, and when dead is deeply and sincerely regretted.—*Ibid*.

February 3.—Friday, the foundation stone of a new meeting house, for the use of the Wesleyan Seceders in Houghton-le-Spring, was

laid by Andrew White, esq., mayor of Sunderland, who at the same time presented a beautiful pulpit bible: the farmers in the neighbourhood led the stones gratuitously.—*Local Papers.*

1837 (Feb. 4).—Saturday, the Vesta steamer, belonging to “the Newcastle Steam Navigation Company,” was launched from Messrs. Hopper’s Ship-building yard, North shore, Newcastle, amid an immense multitude of spectators. It presented a beautiful spectacle. The vessel went into the river with such ease, so slowly and majestically, that the people on board were scarcely conscious of her motion. The Vesta is about 300 tons register, old admeasurement, and is 150 feet long over all, her poop being 45 feet, and the deck between the first and second cabins, presenting an inviting promenade to passengers, is 80 feet long. There are sleeping berths for twelve seamen, and the deck-houses, cabins for the master, mate, stewards, &c., afford every comfort and convenience. The cooking apparatus is of the most approved construction. The fore-cabin for passengers is fitted up with boxes in the style of a coffee-house, and will accommodate fifty people, the height between decks being six feet seven inches. There are two large holds for goods, in which about one hundred tons can be stowed away, and the best cabin, or saloon, is a lofty and very elegant apartment, twenty-two feet long. It is splendidly lighted with plate glass, there being four stern windows, besides others, and there are inserted in the panel work several large mirrors. The machinery is not less deserving of commendation. There are two engines, each estimated at seventy-horse power, but can be worked with safety at a much higher pressure.—*Ibid.*

February 6.—Monday, as John Harris, esq., the engineer to the Stockton and Darlington railway, was passing over the bridge which crosses the river Tees, at Stockton, a furious beast driving to a slaughter-house, came suddenly on to the bridge, and made an attack at him. There seemed for the moment no way of escape for the unfortunate gentleman, but happily he had the presence of mind to throw himself over the parapet of the bridge, sustaining himself in this painful position by his hands and feet until the beast, defeated in his attack, passed on.—*Ibid.*

February.—The manufacture of the largest rope on record, in one unspliced piece, was finished at the patent rope works of Mr. J. Grimshaw, in Sunderland. It was upwards of 4,000 yards long, seven inches in circumference, and 12 tons weight, and cost about £400. It was for the use of the London and Birmingham railway.—*Ibid.*

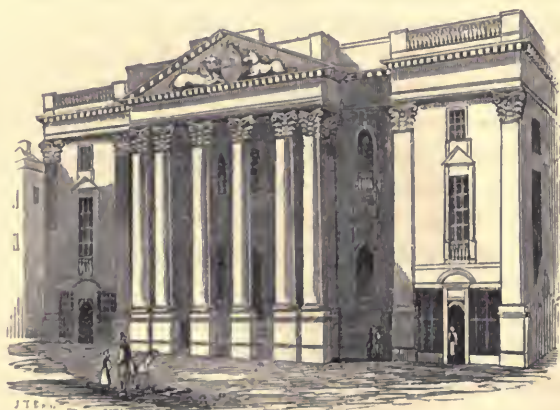
February 8.—Wednesday, in the evening, two old men were sent from St. Nicholas’ workhouse, Newcastle, to Mr. Clark’s, upholsterer, in the Arcade, to fetch some curled hair to teaze, a work in which

they were employed. After receiving four stones' weight in a bag, one of them, named M'Intosh, got it upon his back, leaving the other, who walked lame, behind. M'Intosh, however, never reached the workhouse, but his body was found in the river near the glass houses, in the Close, the following morning. How he had got into the river, or what had become of the hair, was not ascertained.—*Local Papers.*

1837 (Feb. 20).—The new Theatre in Newcastle was opened for the first time by Mr. Montague Penley with the "Merchant of Venice" and "the Young Widow," and was attended by a very crowded audience. The foundation of the building was laid in July 1836, and with such celerity were all parts of the great design put in operation and carried into execution, that in the short space of seven months, it was wholly completed, and the interior generally was almost perfectly dry. The front of the Theatre is a sumptuous and imposing piece of architecture, and the spot chosen for this classic place of amusement is not only very eligible on account of its being central, but it possesses the recommendation of being in Grey street, which, as regards spaciousness and beauty, may challenge the world. The rich and spacious portico under which carriage parties are set down is forty-six feet in length, and projects entirely over the broad flagged pavement, the gorgeous overhanging pediment of which affords perfect shelter. It is supported by six finely proportioned Corinthian columns, with pilasters in the elevation to correspond, in height forty-one feet. In the tympanum of the pediment are the royal arms sculptured by Tate, with extraordinary boldness and spirit. On each side of this magnificent portico a house is erected, in the architecture of which the same style has been adopted, so as to form altogether a frontage of 120 feet, presenting a uniform and symmetrical façade of surpassing grandeur. The windows also, throughout, are arched and pedimented and kept in character. The parapets are handsomely balustraded, the angles of which are ornamented with rich vases carved in stone. Indeed, it has been allowed by connoisseurs, that, among the higher efforts of the art which modern ages have so copiously produced, it would be difficult to find many specimens, taking this in all respects, fit to be set in competition with it. The west front—of which a feeble and very inadequate description has been just given—is the only part of the structure exposed to view; the other three sides are inclosed by splendid ranges of buildings—the south side of Market street, and the north side of Shakspeare street, and a part of the west side of Pilgrim street completely hide from the eye the disagreeable gloom of unsightly walls such as the exterior of huge structures of this nature often present. It will also be considered a further merit in the design, that the entrances to

the pit and gallery are both quite away from that to the boxes, and from one-another. Upon entering from the front in Grey street, parties come into the magnificent rotunda which is 33ft. 6in. diameter, and lofty in proportion. It consists of two stories separated by a circular stone gallery supported by richly ornamented stone cantabers. Fronting the entrance, on the top of the steps leading to the dress circle are four stone columns, and on each side of these are finely executed figures, in sculpture, of *Tragedy* and *Comedy*. To the right on entering is a spacious saloon, from the richly ornamented ceiling of which are suspended two superb bronze lamps. Ladies for the dress boxes dispose of their cloaks and other articles to be left till their departure, in this apartment. To the left of this room is a stone staircase leading to the upper tier of boxes, the landing being supported by two Ionic columns and two pilasters on each side. On ascending this staircase visitors arrive at the gallery of the rotunda, which consists of eight columns of the Corinthian order by which an entablature richly embellished and crowned with a tasteful dome is supported, the *soffite* of the dome being ornamented with deeply sunk panelling; and from the centre of which is suspended a very large and rich ormolu chandelier. On the opposite side of the gallery is another saloon very neatly finished. Round each tier of boxes are spacious corridors, and the rotunda, the principal staircase, and saloons have been admirably designed, and will be found to form a very beautiful portion of this noble building. The pit is entered through a spacious passage by an archway from Market street, and is completely surrounded by a corridor. The seats are covered with crimson cloth, and are so arranged that the best possible view of the stage is afforded from any part thereof. The gallery entrance is under an archway in Shakspeare street, the stairs up to which are very wide and are eased by several landings. Behind the gallery seats is a floor averaging fifteen feet wide extending across the theatre, and the seats rise sufficiently above one another as to afford a view of the stage from every part. The ornaments which are in the French style are from entirely new designs by Mr. Benjamin Green, and the tone of the decorations are generally gold and white. The ceiling which is of a circular form, rises from the gallery, and is supported by five square pillars on each side from the caps of which branch groined vaultings that ascend to a large circle divided by panels into sixteen fan-shaped compartments, the stiles forming the panels being filled with richly gilt ornaments, eight of these compartments contain appropriate devices, and in the other eight alternate compartments are painted fanciful sylph-like figures. These compartments terminate in a circle in which is lattice-work surrounded by laurel leaves gilt, and boldly

painted festoons of flowers. The system of ventilation is, indeed, most perfect, the roof being supplied in all parts with ample air-ducts. From the centre of the ceiling is suspended a bowl-shaped chandelier of immense magnitude and extraordinary brilliancy. Over the elliptical arch of the proscenium are placed the royal arms splendidly decorated with other national devices. The Corinthian columns at each side of the proscenium are formed of burnished rods, and have a very elegant and light appearance. The fronts of the boxes are also beautifully ornamented with allegorical figures and appropriate embellishments, and round the dress circle are suspended seven brilliant cut glass chandeliers. The act drop-scene is a superior composition representing the temple of Jupiter, in the Island of Ægina, which possesses, as a work of art, great merit; and the whole of the scenery has been executed in a very masterly stile. The stage has, also, been constructed on the best principles for the employ of machinery in effecting scenic illusions; and the orchestra, with all its conveniences for the retiring and approach of the musicians have been excellently contrived; nor does any thing seem to have been omitted by which the effect of the performances might appear to be promoted.—*MS. Col.*



THEATRE ROYAL, NEWCASTLE.

CHAPTER XV.



NOTHER portion of the Newcastle and Carlisle railway, about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length, extending from Blaydon to Redheugh, was opened by a procession, on Wednesday, March 1st, 1837. At half-past ten, the procession started from the Redheugh, accompanied by the Carlisle train; the bells of St. Nicholas' and St. Mary's, Gateshead, were rung, which, together with the welcome shouts of

hundreds of spectators who were crowding the banks, and numerous flags floating in the air, added much to enliven the scene. Two of the new carriages, were occupied by the directors and their friends, and others were set apart for visitors. The engines did not go beyond their usual speed until they arrived at Blaydon, when the Carlisle train was detached, and the procession started at a rapid pace, performing the distance between that station and Hexham (17 miles) in the short time of $39\frac{1}{2}$ minutes, including a stoppage of about four minutes. After remaining a short time, the procession again returned to the Redheugh, and in its progress the directors stopped to examine the new quay at the west end of the tunnel, and at Stocksfield station they again stopped, and examined the site of the new bridge then being erected at Bywell, by T. W. Beaumont, esq., M. P. The bridge is built of stone, with five arches, and its cost exceeded £7000. The liberality of Mr. Beaumont, in making this a free bridge, was suitably met by the directors of the railway, who agreed to make the approach from the railway to the bridge, which is a considerable distance. On arriving at Blaydon, the procession was welcomed by a discharge of cannon, and returned to the Redheugh about two o'clock. The directors and their friends then went in the steam boat to the

company's establishment in the Close, where a most splendid cold collation was served up with hot soups. M. Plummer, esq., the chairman of the board, presided, and on proposing "Success to the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway," said, that it gave him very great pleasure to state that by March next year, there was almost a moral certainty that the whole of the line would be finished, which would give a finish to their labours, and, he trusted, satisfaction to the proprietary and the public.—*Local Papers*.

1837 (March 1).—Wednesday, the foundation stone of the new school, adjoining the Trinity chapel, Gateshead, was laid by Mrs. Collinson, wife of the rev. John Collinson, rector of Gateshead. A large company of ladies and gentlemen attended on the occasion.—*Ibid*.

Same day, the foundation stone of the new custom house at Sunderland, was laid.—*Ibid*.

The judges were this month entertained for the last time at the castle of Durham, out of the revenues of the sec; the expence has since been sustained by the county.—*Ibid*.

March 4.—Saturday, was laid the foundation stone of the Mansion house, at Beaufront, near Hexham, Northumberland, the property of William Cuthbert, esq., in the presence of an assemblage of more than four hundred persons, two hundred of whom were workmen engaged in building the servants' offices, and other appurtenances, which were then in progress. Underneath the stone, which was upwards of two tons weight, were deposited two bottles, one containing a medal, a crown, and a half crown piece, and various other coins of George IV. and William IV., amounting to twelve in number, in the other a newspaper of the day, and a scroll of parchment on which was the inscription, "This stone was laid by Wm. Cuthbert, esq., the proprietor of this estate, on the 4th day of March, 1837." On its other side a sketch of the intended building, and the names of John Dobson, esq., architect, Mr. Muse, clerk of the works, Mr. Waterson, mason, Mr. Burnup, joiner, Mr. Dodds, plasterer, Mr. Richardson, painter. The style of the building is of the domestic castellated, or House Gothic of the 15th century, and is peculiarly adapted to the sylvan scenery that encompasses it.—*Ibid*.

March 6.—This day, Monday, commenced the business at the Police office, in the Manors, Newcastle, and the use of the Mayor's chamber was thenceforth discontinued. It is a building possessing every convenience for the purpose for which it was erected.—*Ibid*.

Same day, about three o'clock in the afternoon, a fire broke out on the premises of Mr. Charlton, timber merchant, at the Stock bridge, Newcastle. The police immediately repaired to the spot, and

through their exertions, the fire was speedily extinguished. The Newcastle, North British, and the North of England engines were speedily on the spot, but there was no necessity for their services. The fire was supposed to have been originated by some of the labourers knocking the contents of their pipes amongst the wood, which was extremely dry.—*Local Papers*.

1837 (March 7).—In consequence of C. Richmond, esq., having obtained coal upon his estate of Burnopside, near Lanchester, in the county of Durham, he entertained a party of gentlemen to dinner on the above day at his seat there. The Lanchester band attended on the occasion and played several appropriate airs. The village bells rung merrily; and, in the evening, the tower of the church, and the King's Head inn, were brilliantly illuminated. At the latter place the inhabitants of Lanchester and vicinity met together and spent the evening in the greatest harmony.—*Ibid*.

March 13.—Monday the foundation stone of a new chapel, in Gibson street, Newcastle, for the use of the Wesleyan association was laid by G. T. Gibson, esq. This chapel was opened for divine service on the 10th of December following. The interior of the building is in the form of an amphitheatre, and will seat 1000 persons, including 300 free sittings.—*Ibid*.

March 15.—Melbourne street chapel, Gateshead, was opened for divine service.—*Ibid*.

March 24.—Thursday, as a hackney-coach belonging to Thomas Spires, was proceeding down Pilgrim-street, Newcastle, towards the Quayside, with a gentleman inside, on arriving at the corner of Mosley-street, opposite the Newcastle bank, the horses slipped and fell. Assistance being at hand, they were soon released from the harness, and got up. The driver, however, not deeming it safe, on account of the slippery state of the streets, to put his horses to the carriage again, sent them forward to the bottom of Dean-street, purposing, with the assistance of another person, to draw the carriage to them. The gentleman having remained in the coach all the time, and assenting to the coachman's proposal, away the carriage proceeded down Mosley-street, the driver leading by the pole of the coach, and the assistant holding on behind, for the purpose of regulating the speed of the vehicle.—Unfortunately on reaching the middle of Dean-street, the coachman fell, and luckily the carriage passed over him within the wheels, and the assistant having also at the same time let go his hold, the carriage thus proceeded at a rapid rate, to the dismay and astonishment of all, until it arrived at nearly the foot of the street, when it came in contact with the shop of Mr. Alder, cheesemonger, with a tremendous crash, breaking the window frame work and sixteen

squares of glass. Mr. Alder, who was sitting in his office at the time, and who was slightly wounded in the face by the broken glass, had a narrow escape, the coach-pole coming through the window within half a foot of his head. The gentleman inside received no injury.—*Local Papers*.

1837 (March 29).—Wednesday, a boy about three years of age, son of Mr. G. Taylor, Hartley Mill, was sent on an errand, and having to pass along the draw-bridge over the cut at Seaton Sluice harbour, in consequence of the darkness of the night he did not observe the bridge to be off, and walked over, and fell not less than 45 feet. In his fall he came in contact with some part of a ship, by which he severely injured his right arm, and afterwards rebounded and fell into the water, in which he continued not less than twenty minutes before he could be extricated.—*Ibid*.

This month, the pitmen on the Tyne and Wear, after rather an obstinate stick, resumed their industrious avocations upon the terms, and at the same prices, which were paid the previous year.—*Ibid*.

April 3.—Died, at Byker Bar, Newcastle, "Jackey" Johnson, well known in the neighbourhood as a professor of the occult sciences, aged 71. He was struck dumb a few days before he died, with the cards in his hand, while in the act of divination, and never spoke afterwards. Not being allowed by the authorities of the borough to exercise his mysterious calling within its precincts, he sought and found an asylum in the outskirts of the town, where, located in a community that knew how to appreciate his merits, he exercised his art without molestation, and in the full receipt of all the emoluments, veneration,



West End of the ANTIENT RESIDENCE of the FAMILY of LAWSON, now the "BLUE BELL,"
at BYKER, near Newcastle (1844).

and respect thereunto belonging, as in the olden times of happy ignorance, when the prince and the peasant were alike its patrons. In some instances, where property had been stolen, the thieves have been so alarmed on hearing that the owners had gone to enquire of Johnson, that, for fear of being discovered, they have secretly restored it; such was the influence he acquired among the credulous and superstitious by their belief in his supernatural knowledge. His death was a severe loss to the votaries of Hymen, who were the most frequent consulters of his book of fate, whose oracular responses always promised matrimonial happiness, and were often their only source of hope to cheer the prospect of their future destinies.—*Local Papers.*

1837 (April 3).—Died, at Uppertown, near Nunwick, Northumberland, after a few days illness, aged 81, Elizabeth Heads, and in ten hours afterwards her husband, aged 76, whilst conversing in a neighbour's house about his wife's funeral, where he had only been a few minutes and apparently in good health.—*Ibid.*

April 3.—About 8 P.M. while the servants of Mr. F. Hogg, of Blyth Link house, were engaged foddering the horses, the stable accidentally caught fire. The building was soon in flames, the light of which, and the alarm being given immediately, brought a number of people to the spot, who succeeded in preventing the fire doing further mischief than consuming the stable and byer. Unfortunately there was no fire engine at Blyth, or the fire might have even done less damage.—*Ibid.*

April.—In the first week of this month, died, at Bishopwearmouth, aged nineteen, a young man who had a remarkable predilection for birds. He had thirty pigeons, a cockatoo, sixty-five small birds of various kinds, fifteen bantam cocks and hens, and nine other winged animals; total one hundred and twenty.—*Ibid.*

April 9.—Sunday, between 12 and 1 o'clock, a fire broke out in the Morpeth steam mill, occupied by Mr. William Scott. Although it was in the middle of the day, the fire engines quickly on the spot, a plentiful supply of water, and every assistance at hand, yet such was the rapidity of the flames, with a strong east wind blowing at the time, that nearly the whole of the building was destroyed before it could be got under. The mill was insured, but Mr. Scott's stock was not, and he lost a large quantity of wheat, flour, and other property.—*Ibid.*

April 14.—A poor widow, residing at Holywell colliery, Northumberland, bought a small fish of a travelling fish-hawker, for a penny, and, on opening it, found half-a-sovereign in its stomach.—*Ibid.*

April 16.—Sunday was such a day of continued snow as had

seldom, if ever, been witnessed at that season of the year; in the early part of the day, the snow melted as it fell in Newcastle, but towards night it began to lay, and before morning was several inches in depth. In the country, however, it fell dry and accumulated to the depth of some feet; the roads from Whitfield to Alston, and, indeed, in all the district, were completely blocked up, and near Middleton in Teesdale, the snow was drifted fifteen feet deep.—*Local Papers.*

1837 (April 18).—Tuesday, five boys employed in Monkwearmouth colliery, got into a corf from which three men had just alighted after descending. On the rope being put in motion for drawing up, it broke near the top, when the corf fell, about three fathoms, to the bottom, and the rope which was the full length of the shaft 264 fathoms, fell down upon the boys in the corf. The youngest two boys were preserved by the shelter which the corf afforded, and escaped with but little injury, but the other three who were higher than the sides of the corf, were killed upon the spot. The names of the sufferers were Robert Gray, aged 15, Francis Burrell, 12, George Gilroy, 10 years.—*Ibid.*

April 21.—Died, at the vicarage-house, New-Brentford, aged 66, the rev. sir Robert Peat, D. D. vicar of that parish. This event happened rather suddenly, and was altogether unexpected by his friends. Sir Robert was in London in his usual good health on the Monday, and on his return home in the evening he complained of being unwell. Next day he continued to be indisposed, when Mr. Farrell, his medical friend, was called in, who found him suffering from inflammation of the chest, and bled him. But the disease baffled all medical skill, and at a quarter past nine on Friday morning sir Robert expired without a struggle. Sir Robert Peat was a native of the county of Durham, and a knight of the order of St. Stanislaus, having had this distinction conferred upon him by the last king of Poland, for eminent services rendered to that monarch by a near relative, who died in that country many years ago. The deceased knight was also prior of the sovereign order of St. John of Jerusalem, and chaplain to the Orange Lodge of England. In early life he became curate of Brentford; when residing at that place he was introduced to the late king, George the 4th, and was afterwards one of his most intimate friends. The living of Brentford becoming vacant, it was conferred upon him at the solicitation of his late majesty. Sir Robert married the well known Miss Smith, of Herington, but from a remarkable dissimilarity of dispositions they had not resided together for a long time, though sir Robert had frequently visited her ladyship, and always shewn to her the respect due to their

connection. Sir Robert was remarkably distinguished for his accomplished manners and gentlemanly bearing, and was an excellent scholar, and a warm and devoted friend.—*Local Papers*.

1837 (April 22).—Saturday, the five-quarter seam was sunk through at Crowtrees colliery, laying open about 1600 acres of the West Hetton coal field, belonging to Messrs. Wm. Hedley, and Sons. The seam was in great perfection. Suitable celebrations of the winning were made.—*Ibid*.

April 25.—A melancholy accident, by which five workmen, were instantly crushed to death, occurred during the forenoon of this day, Tuesday, in a quarry belonging to Joseph Price, esq., situate at the high end of Gateshead. The names of the unfortunate sufferers were—Joseph Irvine, foreman of the quarrymen; George Croyle, and George Croyle, jun., father and son; Matthew Welch, and Thomas Baker. The quarry, which was situated close to the turnpike road, having been worked to a considerable depth, it was considered necessary, from its peculiar formation, and the want of space for the ingress and egress of carts in the removal of the stone, to erect a scaffolding at the top, and, with a crane and “sheer-legs,” draw up the stone to bank. The scaffolding had been erected under the direction of the foreman of the quarry, (one of the unfortunate sufferers,) and had been in use little more than five weeks. At the time of the accident upwards of twenty tons of stone were lying on it, and the men had just drawn up a tub full, of about half a ton weight, when, suddenly, the scaffolding, with a tremendous crash, gave way, with the unfortunate sufferers, burying them amidst the stones and timber. It appeared that when the construction of the scaffold was deemed necessary, Mr. Price sent his carpenter, and other servants, with a quantity of timber, but Irvine, the deceased foreman, undertook the direction of the work, and rejected a portion of the timber thus sent as unnecessary.—*Ibid*.

April.—The “Educational Society of Newcastle, Durham, and Northumberland,” was established.—*Ibid*.

May 4.—Ascension day, the regatta on the Tyne, in honour of Joseph Lamb, esq., chief magistrate of Newcastle, was more splendid than any ever before remembered by the oldest inhabitant. The aquatic procession was ranged in the order for starting at about half past six o'clock; the mayor, accompanied by a considerable body of the borough magistrates and town councillors, with many gentlemen of high respectability, occupying his splendid barge. Next in order was the barge of the Trinity house, containing several officers of that excellent and charitable corporation, with several members of the river committee. Then was ranged the steam-vessel Ocean, tastefully

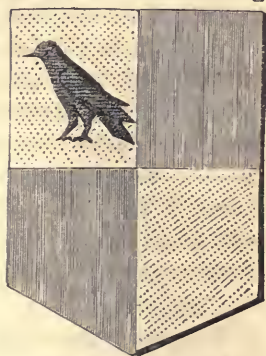
decorated for the occasion, and in which were seated the stewards of the incorporated companies. In another steamer, most splendidly fitted up, were the officers of the 60th Rifles, who had resolved upon paying this mark of respect to the worthy mayor, accompanied by their fine band of music. There were also two or three other decorated steamers, occupied by respectable inhabitants, (all of which in addition to those previously mentioned had bands of music on board) ; to say nothing of a number of small craft, containing gay pleasure parties, and numerous racing gigs, with their crews dressed in tasteful costume. All the ships in the Tyne had their colours flying, and many fired carronades from their decks. Cannons were also fired from several manufactories on the banks of the river, whilst above all, were heard the loud thunders of a salute from the guns of the ancient castle ; the ear being, at intervals, relieved with the more musical sounds which proceeded from the bells of St. Nicholas, Gateshead, and other churches. The concourse of spectators was very great, and the unclouded sun smiled upon a happy and joyous scene. At a little after seven o'clock the procession started, amidst the playing of lively airs, to the Spar Hawk, the eastern boundary of the river ; having made which, the party partook of refreshments at the Low Lights. About half-past one they returned to Newcastle, where the



East Bastion of the BLACK GATE of the CASTLE of NEWCASTLE. Oct. 1844.

firing of the castle guns, the ringing of bells, &c., was repeated. A vast crowd had assembled on the bridge, and along the quay, to see the regatta, which was now swelled by many additional pleasure parties, in racing gigs, &c., and had a very imposing appearance. Contrary, however, to usual custom (the deviation having been rendered necessary by the closing of the mansion-house), the mayor's and the Trinity-house barges remained for an hour at the foot of the Quay, that refreshments might be taken on board, which had the effect of preventing the procession from being viewed to advantage from the bridge. Soon after two o'clock the survey of the river westward of the bridge was commenced in the same order. On reaching Lemington the usual festive sports were indulged in, and unconstrained hilarity was the order of the day. On their return the party made the accustomed halts at the King's Meadows, and a renewal of the rustic sports took place there; about half-past eight the survey was completed, and the party reached home amid similar demonstrations to those which marked their departure.—*Local Papers.*

1837 (May 6).—An accident of an unusual description occurred at Newcastle quay, on the morning of this day, Saturday. The ship *Probity*, R. Brinkley, master, from Ipswich, laden with wheat, whose cargo was in the course of delivery, fell over outwards, and bilged her side. The vessel was standing, it appeared, on the edge of a bank, opposite the Grey Horse public house. She was speedily filled with water, and as upwards of 400 quarters of wheat were in her when she went over, the damage sustained was considerable. On Monday the vessel was raised and the cargo landed.—*Ibid.*



May 7.—Died, on the evening of this day, at his seat at Craster, Northumberland, in the 83rd year of his age, Shafto Craster, esq. He served the office of high sheriff of Northumberland in the year 1803, and was the last male descendant of one of the most ancient and opulent families in the county, the paternal domain of Craster having been held by William de Craster in the year 1292. But his revered character is more highly elevated by his transcendent deeds of benevolence

than any ancestral dignity could bestow. His widely extended charity manifested itself principally in seeking out and privately supporting and assisting families who had known better days, and who amidst privation and poverty, struggled to hold up their heads in the world. To individuals thus situated he gave large sums from time to time as their occasions required. He was a liberal subscriber to

numerous charitable institutions. In some instances he invested large sums, the interest of which he directed to be applied permanently to such objects. In his own neighbourhood his bounties were endless. Day after day the friendless poor betook themselves to Craster, and no one who was truly such, ever solicited his assistance in vain. In various places he appointed persons to whom he gave money, for the same purpose. He paid medical men for their attentions to the sick poor. His charity was unostentatious, and flowed from principle, not merely from the appearance of woe. He was a liberal landlord, and though his tenantry always held on easy terms, his returns and kindnesses to them were beyond precedent. In short, it may be truly said of this great and good man, that his whole life was one continued exercise of benevolence. His remains were deposited in the family vault in the northern aisle of Embleton church, on the evening of Friday the 30th of May. The funeral procession consisted of the hearse drawn by six horses; two mourning coaches; two family carriages, each drawn by four horses, followed by thirteen carriages, the property of personal friends of the deceased. These were succeeded by a retinue of the tenantry in full mourning, and a numerous train of attendants. The long line of the funeral procession, extending nearly a mile, produced an impressive effect as it approached the village of Embleton, where apparently the entire population of the neighbourhood had assembled to join in the last hallowed rites dedicated to the venerable and venerated friend and benefactor of humanity.—*Local Papers.*



1837 (May 9).—Died, at Alnwick, in his 73rd year, sir David William Smith, bart. He was born September 4th, 1764, the only child of John Smith, of Salisbury, lieutenant colonel of the 5th regiment of foot, and of Anne, daughter of William Waylen, esq., of Rowde hill and Devizes, Wilts. Lieutenant colonel Smith, died in the command of fort Niagara, North America, in 1795. Sir David married, on the 3rd November, 1788, Anne, daughter of John O'Reilly, esq.,

of Balleykilchrist, now Anne's ville, county of Longford, who died November 5th, 1798, leaving issue an only son, David William, R.N., born June 6th, 1794, unfortunately killed, May 11th, 1811, by a shot from a French battery in the bay of Quiberon, and several daughters, three of whom survive. He married, secondly, April 11th, 1803, Mary, youngest daughter of the late John Tylee, esq., of Devizes, by whom he had issue a daughter. Sir David entered the army

early in life, and accompanied his regiment to North America, where his extraordinary aptitude for business in the civil department manifesting itself, he was induced to leave the army, and to settle in Upper Canada. He was there called to the bar, with precedence as deputy judge advocate; he held the important situation of surveyor general of lands; was also a trustee of the six nations; one of the executive council, and a member of the committee for administering the government in the governor's absence. He was elected a member of the three first Canadian parliaments, and in two of them held the distinguished office of speaker of the house of Assembly. Sir David administered these offices so honourably and efficiently that the highest honours awaited him; all of which, however, he was obliged to relinquish on account of impaired health. For his services he was created a baronet on August 30th, 1821, and is described in the patent of creation as of Pickering in Upper Canada, and of Preston in the county of Northumberland. Sir David was, from a boy, known to, and honoured by the notice of the late duke of Northumberland, who, on his being unable to return to Canada, secured his valuable services as principal commissioner of his grace's princely estates in Northumberland. He was, also, an active magistrate in the county, and a deputy lieutenant. The many excellences, that combined to form sir D. W. Smith's character, were extensively known and appreciated. His high intelligence and talents for business earned for him in Canada the well merited notice and recompense of government; and, more recently, during a thirty years' honourable and judicious administration of the affairs of the Northumberland estates, under the late and present dukes, he had the singular felicity of possessing at once the confidence of his employers, and the good-will of their extensive tenantry. His funeral took place at Alnwick, on Friday, May 19th. The bells were tolled at intervals during the day, and the shops in the town were closed during the afternoon. The rank and character of the deceased drew together a great concourse of persons to honour the closing rites, and witness the funeral procession, which vastly surpassed in solemn grandeur any ever witnessed at Alnwick.—*Local Papers.*

1837 (May 11).—Thursday, shortly before midnight, the attention of a person passing down the Royal Arcade, Newcastle, was directed to an unusual light, a crackling noise, and a sulphureous smell, issuing from the shop for fancy goods of Mr. S. Gans, known as "The Fancy Fair." Information was immediately given at the police station in the Manors, and messengers were despatched for the fire engines. Mr. Stephens, superintendent of police, was almost immediately on the spot with a body of men, and under his directions the avenues to the

Arcade were prevented from being choked up, the alarm having spread with great rapidity, and numerous persons having property in the Arcade, notwithstanding the midnight hour, when many had retired to rest, arrived in rapid succession. The engines belonging to the Newcastle, North British, and North of England fire-offices, were also promptly on the spot, and got to work with an abundant supply of water, obtained by opening the water company's plugs in Pilgrim-street. While these preparations were making, some person, probably with the best of motives, but most injudiciously, pulled down a shutter from the window in Mr. Gans' shop.—The inevitable result was, that the dense mass of smoke which filled the interior of the shop, was instantly fanned into a vivid body of flame, which burst forth, threatening destruction to every thing around. The engines above named however, now played vigourously on the destructive element, but a fourth, stationed in property attached to the Friends' Meeting house, at the back of the Arcade, from some cause or other, was of no avail. Mr. Grainger, by whom the Arcade was erected, whilst the flames were raging, was called from his bed, and hurried to the scene of conflagration. That gentleman having confidence in the principle on which the erection is constructed, endeavoured to allay the excessive alarm which pervaded the assembled multitude that the entire pile of buildings would be destroyed, and with Mr. Stephens, the superintendant of police, directed that the populace should be prevented from breaking into the adjoining shops, with the view of removing the property, and thus, as was proved in the sequel, much injudicious, but well meant, interference was prevented. At half-past one o'clock all fears of the fire spreading beyond the fancy fair had ceased; the flames having nearly spent their rage in consuming almost all that was combustible of stock and fixtures in the shop and in the warerooms above. The engines, however, continued to play for some time longer upon the smouldering embers, and at three o'clock in the morning all was over. On the following day great crowds visited the Arcade to ascertain the extent of injury, and it became matter of astonishment that the building itself had sustained comparatively very little damage—probably not to the extent of more than £200. In the Arcade were situated three banks, the post office, many splendid shops, besides numerous attorneys and other offices, in all which were valuable property and records. The best proof, however of the excellent arrangements adopted in the erection of this noble pile, is to be found in the fact that, at all these places, with the exception of Mr. Wailes' suite of offices, business was going on as usual on Friday morning. Mr. Wailes' offices, we ought to state, were immediately over Mr. Gans' ware-

rooms, and although the fire raged underneath, as we have said, for three hours, Mr. Wailes' law library only sustained partial injury. Several papers were also damaged, but not materially, and the furniture was uninjured; whilst no loss whatever was suffered by Mr. Thomas Burnup, whose offices were on the same floor.—*Local Papers.*



1837 (May 15).—Died, at Elemore hall, Durham, in his 84th year, George Baker, esq. Mr. Baker was the only son and heir of Geo. Baker, esq., of Elemore (descended from an old Durham family,) by Judith, daughter and coheirress of Cuthbert Routh, of Dinsdale, county of Durham, by Judith, daughter of sir Ralph Milbank, of Halnaby, county of York, bart. He succeeded his father in his estates in 1774. In his earlier years he was well known in the sporting circles, and was

supposed to be one of the best gentleman riders in England. He was a candidate for the representation of the city of Durham, in the year 1813, when a severe and expensive contest of nine days' duration, the longest in the annals of that city, took place between himself and the late George Allan, of Blackwell Grange, esq. The latter was elected by a majority of 80; the numbers being—for Mr. Allan, 440; for Mr. Baker, 360. Mr. Baker was high-sheriff for Northumberland in 1815. He had been for some time in a declining state of health, but was sufficiently well to receive his rents from his tenantry on the very day he breathed his last. Having deposited his money in a place of safety, he signified his wish to retire to rest, and when his servant was in the act of undressing him, he fell back in his chair and expired without a groan. Mr. Baker devised the bulk of his large property to his grandson, (the eldest son of colonel Tower, who married his only daughter,) who is directed to assume the name of Baker upon his attaining the age of twenty-one. Directions were given in his will that he should be buried, not in the family vault of Pitlington church, but in the church-yard, and that the following inscription should be placed upon his tombstone:—"Here lies the last of the George Bakers of Elemore hall, in the county of Durham." He may not be the *last* George Baker; but he will be succeeded by no one of *more* gentlemanly spirit, or live longer in the hearts of the poor and unfortunate, to whom he was a constant benefactor, and the kindest friend.—*Gent's Mag.*

About the middle of this month, as two gentlemen were exercising some spaniels, near Prestwick Carr, Northumberland, the dogs made

a dead stand at a spot from which they would not attend to their master's call. On examination they found them engaged with two fox cubs amongst a tuft of furze, which had been isolated during the long continuance of wet weather, where they had reposed secure during the hunting season. The following is a list of viands provided by their dam:—Thirty goslings, three leverets, three rabbits, two bald coots, one large eel, and the remains of a hen pheasant.—

Local Papers.

1837 (May 19).—As the keel belonging to Messrs Cookson's bottle-works was going down the river Tyne, a large fish was discovered below Hebburn quay, struggling on the shore. As soon as the keel reached Hebburn staith, Mr. Strachan, the skipper, sent two young men to the place where they had seen the fish, and they succeeded in capturing the monster, and, after a good deal of trouble, in killing it. The fish proved to be a conger eel, which weighed 3 st. 2 lb., and measured 6 feet 3 inches in length, and in girth 18½ inches. It was afterwards sold for 1s. 4d. per share, and was considered a fine specimen.—*Ibid.*

May 24.—Never was there a more unanimous expression of loyal and affectionate feeling than that which pervaded the inhabitants of Northumberland and Durham, on the above day, when the princess Victoria attained her regal majority, viz.—the eighteenth year of her age. In Newcastle the bankers first announced their intention of closing, on this auspicious day, their respective establishments; and the right worshipful the mayor issued a notice, expressive of his desire that the shopkeepers should suspend the usual operations of business on the occasion, a desire which was acquiesced in most cheerfully. The day was spent in a manner highly befitting the occasion. Early in the morning the bells of the several churches rang merry peals, and continued at intervals. The civic artillery sent forth its thunder on the occasion—several royal salutes being fired from the cannon at the old castle. Flags and streamers floated from the ships in the river, and from several manufactories along its banks, on both sides. Messrs. R. and W. Hawthorn not only gave their numerous work-people a holiday but presented them with a barrel of strong ale, which they poured forth in copious libations “to the health of the princess!” Several other employers, acted in a similar manner. Discharges of carronades were heard in all directions; and at the Newcastle and Carlisle railway stations flags were exhibited, and guns fired off on the departure and arrival of each train. What we have said of Newcastle will apply to Sunderland, (where many loyal parties assembled,) Shields, (both North and South,) Durham, Darlington, Stockton, Barnard-castle, Staindróp, Hexham, Morpeth, and Alnwick, (where a

royal salute was fired from the guns of the castle,) Berwick, and, in short, every other town, hamlet, and village within the two counties—"Victoria Dinners," rustic games, sports, and pastimes, prevailed everywhere—it was, in short, a national holiday, in which all ranks, from the peer to the peasant, vied with each other in doing honour to the occasion. At Darlington, and many other towns, subscriptions were entered into, and the poor regaled, according to Old English custom, with roast beef and plum-pudding. It was particularly gratifying that party politics were restrained under loyal feelings, and the day, (which was fine) passed off as one of almost unprecedented enjoyment.—*Local Papers*.

1837 (May 29).—Monday, the king's birth-day (the 72nd) was celebrated in Newcastle by the usual demonstrations of loyalty and respect. In addition to the ringing of merry peals by the various church bells, and a royal salute from the castle, there was a grand display from the military. A little after twelve o'clock, the dismounted troops of the Newcastle and Northumberland volunteer cavalry marched to the race course, where they were met by the Royal Horse artillery; the 7th Dragoons, and the depôt of the 60th Rifles. A royal salute from the artillery announced the hour of one, the remainder of the troops responding with a *feu de joie*, after which three hearty cheers were given for his majesty's health. The troops then formed open column, marched past the commandant in slow and quick time, the cavalry going past in a gallop. They then formed line, advanced, and presented arms, the bands playing God Save the King. The day was exceedingly fine, and a large number of spectators were on the ground. In the evening, the right worshipful the mayor, Joseph Lamb, esq., gave a grand dinner at the Assenbly rooms, to the members of the corporation, the military officers of the district, the heads of his majesty's customs and excise, and several private friends.—*Ibid*.

May 30.—Tuesday, the ladies and gentlemen of the Lumley Castle Archery Club held their first meeting at that place, when the ladies proved the victors. The gold medal was won by Miss Wilkinson, of Harperley park. There was a ball in the evening at which upwards of a hundred were present.—*Ibid*.

June 8.—Thursday, at a convocation holden this day, the royal charter granted to the university of Durham was formally received. This charter, which received the Great Seal on the 1st of June, fully recognizes and confirms the constitution of the university as established by the dean and chapter in pursuance of the act of parliament of the year 1832, incorporates the university by the title of "The Warden, Masters, and Scholars of the University of Durham," and authorises it to enjoy all the property, rights, and privileges which are

assured by the said act, or are incident to a university established by royal charter. After the charter had been read and received, and a grace passed for the adoption of a University seal, several graces were offered for conferring the degree of Bachelor of Arts on students who had completed the full number of terms, and passed the requisite number of examinations. The following gentlemen were then admitted to the degree of Bachelor of Arts:—John Cundill, Robert Forster Pratt, John Mayne St. Clere Raymond, James Skinner, Ralph Errington, George Hills, William Thomas Watson, Thomas Garnett, John Gibson, Charles Sawkins Harrison, John Bennett, Ralph Robinson, and Francis Thompson.—*Gent's. Mag.*

1837 (June 15).—On the evening of this day, Thursday, a fire broke out in the varnish manufactory, situated in a yard behind the bond warehouses at Robinson's wharf, Sunderland. It was first discovered about half-past eight o'clock, and had been caused by the boiling over of a vessel containing inflammable ingredients. By prompt and efficient assistance it was speedily extinguished without much damage.—*Local Papers.*

June 19.—The foundation stone of the new chapel of ease at South Hetton, in the parish of Easington, in the county of Durham, was laid by the worthy curate, the rev. John Burdon.—*Ibid.*

June 21.—Wednesday, the intelligence of the death of his late majesty William the Fourth, was received in Newcastle a little before seven A. M. The bells of the several churches commenced tolling at seven o'clock, and continued to do so at intervals during Thursday. The flag on the castle, and those of the ships in the river, were hoisted half-staff high, and the shops were partially closed. At Sun-



Part of the PLATFORM of the KEEP of the CASTLE of NEWCASTLE. 1844.

derland on Thursday, similar signs of grief were manifested for the demise of his majesty.—*Local Papers.*

1837 (June 23).—Friday, about eight o'clock in the morning, volumes of smoke were seen to issue from the brewery of Mr. Bell, of the Black House inn, in Pilgrim-street. The North British fire-engine was on the spot and at work in a few minutes. The flames were speedily got under, when it was discovered that a beam of timber, in the wall, had ignited, owing to its proximity to the copper boiler, which had been in use on the previous day. The damage was not very serious.—*Ibid.*

June 23.—Queen Alexandrina Victoria the First was proclaimed in Newcastle. Pursuant to a summons from the mayor, the council met in the council chamber at 12 o'clock, from whence they adjourned to the Merchants' court for the purpose of drinking her Majesty's health. The clergy of the town and the officers of the garrison and Northumberland yeomanry, having here joined the company, the mayor requested the party to fill a bumper of champagne and drink the health of Queen Victoria, and a long, happy, and prosperous reign to her majesty, which was drunk with three times three hearty cheers. The company then proceeded to the Sandhill, where the military were formed in a hollow square to receive them, and the town marshal read the proclamation of her majesty as queen of Great Britain and Ireland; immediately after, three times three cheers were given by the assemblage, the bands at the same time playing the National air, the guns on the castle firing a royal salute, and the bells of the churches ringing, which together had a very imposing effect. The procession then moved forward towards St. Nicholas' square in the following order:—

Royal Artillery Waggon Train.

7th Dragoon Guards in double file.

Royal Rifle Corps.

Sergeants at Mace,

Trumpeters.

The Mayor and

Commanding Officer of the Garrison.

The Sheriff of the Town and Under Sheriff.

The Magistrates and Aldermen.

The Clergy.

Councillors.

Police.

Yeomanry.

Dragoons.

Having arrived in St. Nicholas' square, the proclamation was again

read, and received with similar demonstrations, which were also repeated at the White-cross, from whence the procession returned in the same order, by Blackett-street, Pilgrim-street, and Dean-street, to the Sandhill. Upon the invitation of the mayor, the company then repaired to the Merchants' court, where the health of the queen, the duchess of Kent, and other national toasts were again drunk and greeted with cheers. Before separating, Mr. alderman Headlam suggested to the mayor the propriety of calling an early meeting of the council to vote an address to her majesty, when the mayor said he should call the council together on Tuesday for the purpose.—*Local Papers.*

1837 (June 24).—The council of the borough of Gateshead, at a special meeting convened by the mayor for that purpose, unanimously voted an address to her majesty on her accession to the throne.—*Ibid.*

Same day, Queen Victoria was proclaimed at Alnwick, by the under sheriff, accompanied by Chas. W. Bigge, esq., chairman of the county, Robert Thorp, esq., clerk of the peace, J. Clutterbuck, esq., Edward Dale, esq., W. Laws, esq., the rev. L. S. Orde, and other gentlemen. The Alnwick amateur band preceded the procession from the White Swan Inn, to the Market place, and performed several national airs, after the proclamation was made.—*Ibid.*

At Sunderland, on the same day, the queen was proclaimed in the parishes of Sunderland, Bishopwearmouth, and Monkwearmouth, by Andrew White, esq., mayor of Sunderland. A procession was formed consisting of the mayor, borough magistrates, aldermen, councillors, police officers, depôt of the 56th regt., and the coast guard. A great number of the inhabitants attended the procession, who evinced every feeling of loyalty befitting the occasion.—*Ibid.*

June 24.—Died, at Monkwearmouth, in the 90th year of her age, universally respected, Mrs. Barbara Wilson, relict of Mr. George Wilson. She was a lineal descendant of the ancient barons of Hylton, formerly of Hylton castle, in the county of Durham.—*Ibid.*

This day, being the fourth centenary anniversary of the invention of printing, was celebrated in Newcastle. The operative members of the profession, some gentlemen connected with the press in the district, and a number of friends, dined together in the afternoon, and after an adjournment met again in the evening, which was spent in a manner worthy of the important occasion they met to celebrate. The bells of some of the churches rang at intervals during the day, and flags were displayed from the windows of several of the printing offices in the town.—*Ibid.*

Same night, an inquest was held before William Stoker, esq., coroner, at the Old Duke of Cumberland public house, Castle-garth,

Newcastle, upon the body of Hector O'Hara, tailor. It appeared that the deceased had been in the Three Bulls' Heads public house drinking, and about half-past eleven at night was coming from the public house, and had got down the passage into the street, in company with a man named Oxley, opposite his (deceased's) shop, when his wife came to him and said, "Come home, you drunken villain," took him by the collar, gave him a shove, and knocked him down. Deceased was taken up in a state of insensibility, and conveyed to bed, where he spoke but twice afterwards. Next morning, he was found lying on the floor, from which he was again removed to bed, but he never spoke again, and died on the Sunday evening. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased had died from a wound in his head, but how it had been occasioned no distinct evidence appeared.—*Local Papers*.

1837 (June 25).—On Sunday, the churches and other places of worship, in this town, were hung with black, and funeral sermons were preached in several of them on the lamented death of his late majesty.—*Ibid*.

June 27.—Tuesday, the queen was proclaimed at Hexham by W. J. Charlton, esq., sheriff, Jasper Gibson, esq., under sheriff, &c., &c.—*Ibid*.

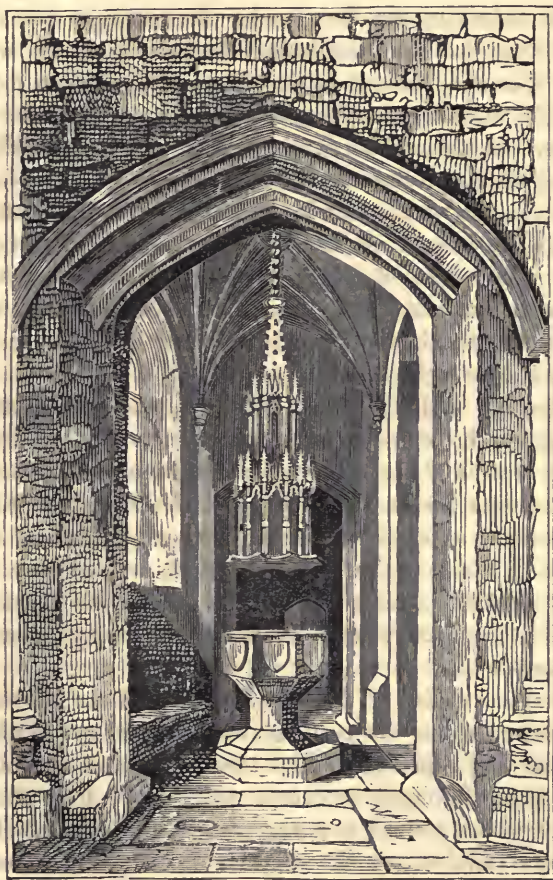
June 27.—A special meeting of the town council of the borough of Newcastle upon Tyne, was held in the council chamber when an address of condolence to her majesty, on the death of the late king, and of congratulation on her accession to the throne was adopted, and it was resolved that the address should be presented to her majesty by the mayor, Joseph Lamb, esq., in person.—*Ibid*.

June 28.—Wednesday, the proclamation of her majesty took place at North Shields, accompanied by an unparalleled demonstration of the most enthusiastic loyalty, alike creditable to the constituted authorities and to the inhabitants generally. The resident magistrates, John Fenwick and Henry Mitcalf, esqrs. having received a communication from the high sheriff of Northumberland on the subject, promptly appointed that day, at noon, for the celebration of the ceremony, and invited the clergy, gentry, and inhabitants to meet them at the Northumberland Arms, in the Market-place, at half-past eleven o'clock. On the arrival, at the Northumberland Arms, of Jasper Gibson, esq., the under-sheriff, the order of the ceremony and intended procession was arranged, and precisely at twelve o'clock, the under-sheriff, accompanied by the magistrates, Alexander Crighton, esq., the returning officer; Thomas Dobinson, esq., the high constable; C. U. Laws, esq., bailiff of the manor; sir John Walsham, bart., one of his majesty's poor law commissioners, and other gentlemen made

their appearance at the front of the hotel. When silence being enjoined by the sheriff's bailiff in the usual manner, and after a flourish of trumpets, the proclamation was read by the under-sheriff, after which, the gentlemen in the long room, and the assembled multitude on the quay, gave three times three such hearty and deafening cheers, as made the welkin ring; after which the band immediately struck up God save the Queen. The procession then began to move in the following order, viz.:—A large posse of constables, with staves of office—band—bailiff of the manor and his officers—capt. Gilhespy, R. A., and his brother officers, in regimentals—the resident magistrates—the rev. William Mark, lecturer of Tynemouth—the ministers of other denominations—under-sheriff—returning officer for the borough—the high constable—a most numerous body of gentry and tradesmen, walking two and two abreast, accompanied by a very great body of the inhabitants, walking in a similar manner, and followed by an immense multitude of all classes. The procession paraded through most of the principal streets, and halted to proclaim the queen again at the Low-lights bridge, Dockwray-square, and at the library in Howard-street, and was on each occasion greeted by the most enthusiastic cheers, the band playing God save the Queen. The procession returned to the Northumberland Arms, where refreshments had been provided by order of the under-sheriff, who took the chair, and in the most appropriate terms proposed the health of the queen, and long life and happiness to her, with three times three cheers. The queen dowager. His late most gracious and illustrious majesty's revered memory was drunk in solemn silence. Then followed the healths of the lord lieutenant of the county, the high-sheriff, &c. &c., after which the company separated. At the time of proclamation the vessels in the river hoisted their flags at the mast-head, the church bells pealed merrily, and the tradesmen closed all their shops. On the following morning it was announced to the inhabitants of South Shields, that the magistrates, clergy, principal gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood, intended to proclaim her majesty queen Victoria, at the Town-hall, at noon, at which hour the Market-place was filled with the most respectable inhabitants, the shops throughout the town closed, the bells ringing, and music parading the streets. Bryan Abbs, esq., the senior magistrate, accompanied by J. T. Wawn, esq., the revs. J. Carr, R. Gillan, W. Graham, and other gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood, came to the front of Town-hall, and after requesting silence, the senior magistrate desired Mr. Fell to read the proclamation, which was done, and repeated at the four sides of Market-square, after each reading the populace joined in nine hearty cheers, and at the conclusion a party of

gentlemen sung the patriotic anthem of "God save the Queen.—*Local Papers.*

1837 (June).—This month, the sinkers employed at Whitwell colliery, belonging to Andw. White, esq., of Sunderland, and partners, penetrated a seam of coal equal to the best Wear Wallsend. This event was the more satisfactory, as some doubts were entertained that the coal would be of inferior quality, and an almost exhaustless coal field was thus opened up.—*Ibid.*



BAPTISTRY of the Church of S. JOHN, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE (1844).

June 30.—The number of christenings solemnized in St. John's church, Newcastle, on the above day, amounted to the extraordinary number of forty two.—*Ibid.*

June.—The master and brethren of the Trinity house, Newcastle, at their monthly board, most promptly acceded to a petition from the

Sailors' Home Society, recently formed in that town, to allow their elegant chapel, which is capable of accommodating three-hundred persons, to be used on Sunday forenoons as a place of worship, agreeably to the forms of the Church of England, for the sailors and watermen and their families resorting to this port.—*Local Papers*.

1837 (June).—This month, the model of a machine, entitled the "Royal Railway Mail," invented by Mr. William Martin, was exhibited in Newcastle. The model is on the scale of half an inch to a foot, and the machine, with its railway, has a very elegant appearance. The axles are not fixed under the carriage, but across the middle of it, at the front and back—thus obtaining the wheels of a very large diameter without raising the carriage to an inconvenient height. The mechanical arrangement for propelling the vehicle is very simple. In the middle of the carriage is a large toothed wheel, which the guard is to work by an ordinary winch. The large wheel gears into a smaller one, which latter wheel again gears into a pinion, attached to the axle of the hind wheels. By the evolution of this pinion the wheels are, of course, made to revolve, and thus motion is given to the carriage along the rails. The carriage is fitted up with receptacles for the mail bags, with a moveable top, in the centre of which is a dome-light.—*Ibid*.

July 3.—Her majesty, queen Victoria, was proclaimed at Barnard-castle, by the steward, jury, and officers of the Manor court, assisted by several of the respectable inhabitants of the town. The proclamation was first made in front of the King's Head inn, and afterwards at the usual places, amidst the hearty cheers of the assembled people. The Amateur band attended, and enlivened the scene by playing several popular tunes; the flags were hoisted on the steeple and Raby battery, and the bells rung many a merry peal on the occasion.—*Ibid*.

July 5.—The passing of the Warkworth harbour bill was celebrated at Warkworth on the evening of the above day, Wednesday, by illuminations and rejoicings. The town presented an animated appearance, being thronged to excess with people from the adjacent parts, all of whom seemed to participate in one joyous feeling. The inhabitants of Amble and the neighbourhood were not behind those of Warkworth in testifying their joy at the passing of the bill, and the working of the Radcliffe colliery. The village was also beautifully illuminated on the occasion. The Warkworth band was in attendance. "The Queen," "Success to the Harbour and Colliery," and other appropriate toasts were drunk amidst the firing of guns and cheering of the populace, and the night passed over in one uninterrupted scene of mirth and festivity. The bill was passed on the 30th of June, and

provides for raising £100,000 for improving the navigation of the river Coquet, for the shipment of coals and other merchandize. Twenty commissioners are named in the bill, for carrying its provisions into effect who have the power of rendering the river Coquet navigable as far as Acklington.—*Local Papers*.

1837 (July 8).—The occasion of the interment of the remains of his late majesty was observed in Newcastle, and all the neighbouring towns, with all the respect and attachment, which were due to the exalted qualities of the deceased monarch. At an early hour the bells of the several churches in Newcastle commenced tolling, which, at intervals, they continued during the day, alternating the toll with muffled peals. The flag on the castle, and those of the vessels in the river were hoisted half-mast high, and minute guns were fired from the castle from one to two o'clock, and also in the evening, a toll of the large bell of St. Nicholas' accompanying every shot. Almost every shop, although it was the principal market-day, was partially closed, and, in the after part of the day, many of them were closed altogether. The Literary and Philosophical Society was closed at one o'clock, and the Custom house and other public offices were likewise closed to mark the mournful event. The military force at the barracks also paid suitable respect to the day, and, for an hour in the evening, the artillery fired minute guns on the Cow-hill. The day was observed in a similar way in all the neighbouring towns. On the following day, Sunday, the mayor and corporation went in procession to St. Nicholas' church, where the vicar preached an appropriate sermon; and the choir sung with great effect, the anthem from Dr. Clark's funeral service, "I am the resurrection and the life." The body of Freemasons also walked in procession from their hall, to attend divine service at St. Nicholas. Sermons were preached in all the other churches and chapels of the town in reference to the mournful event.—*Ibid*.

Early in this month, after the short lapse of ten weeks, Jos. Smith, esq., and Co., owners of South Tanfield colliery, reached the main coal-seam, five feet eight inches in thickness, and equal to, if not surpassing in quality, any of the secondary coals in either the Tyne or Wear. The sinking work was under the superintendence of Joseph Smith and Joseph Joicey, esqrs., whose talents in the mining world are too well known to need any commendation from us; these are the gentlemen, by whose power South Hetton pit was sunk to the astonishing depth of 180 fathoms, notwithstanding the difficulties and obstructions they had to encounter, in a time and at an expense unvalued in this or in any other mining district.—*Ibid*.

July 10.—A meeting called by the vicar of Newcastle and the rev.

Robert Green, was held in the vestry of All Saints' church, there to form a committee for the purpose of taking measures for building a chapel of ease at Byker, the eastern extremity of the parish of All Saints'. The vicar read letters from the bishop of Durham and sir M. W. Ridley, bart. ; that from the former approving of the proposal, and promising his support : that from the latter also approving of the proposal, and offering a site of ground for that object. The populous district of Byker and the surrounding locality had long felt the want of a place of worship attached to the Anglican church, and a highly desirable site was now presented, upon which a chapel was proposed to be built, comprising an acre of ground, near to, and enclosing a part of the Folly, immediately to the north of which it was to be placed. The chapel was to have 1200 sittings in all ; the style of architecture was to be neat, plain, ecclesiastical, and substantial ; and for the purpose of carrying out these views, a considerable sum of money was subscribed, but the site and adjacent ground having *crept*, it was considered unsafe to commence building ; the opinion of a viewer was subsequently obtained, when it was determined that the church should not be proceeded with until such time had elapsed as would warrant its future safety. Such time, however, has not yet arrived, even so late as October 1844, continued shrinking is taking place.—*MS. Col. Local Papers.*



The Old MANOR HOUSE at BYKER, as it appeared in the Eighteenth Century.

CHAPTER XVI.



REAT interest was manifested by a numerous class of merchants in Newcastle and the neighbouring towns, on the occasion of the first public sale of teas at that port, imported ex the Mid-Lothian, from Canton, which took place on Wednesday the 12th of July 1837, in the dining-room of the late Mansion house. So far back as the year 1834, in compliance with an application made through the Chamber of Commerce, of Newcastle, there was an order of council, gazetted September the 19th in the same year, by which that port was declared a fit and proper port for the importation of goods from places within the limits of the charter of the East India Company. The concession, was not, however, made available by any of the merchants of the Tyne for direct trade, until Mr. Alex. Geo. Gray, imported a cargo of from three to four thousand chests of the finest teas, which were offered to public competition, as above stated. There was a good attendance of the trade at the sale, and the first break of Congous went off readily at from 9d. to 13d. per lb. A few lots, in some of the succeeding breaks, found buyers at a small advance on taxed prices, at from 1s. 0½d. to 2s. 3¼d. All the Orange Pekoes were sold at from 1s. 4½d. to 1s. 7½d. Twankeys brought from 1s. 6½d. to 1s. 10d.—*Local Papers.*

July 12.—The counties of Northumberland and Durham were visited, with dreadful thunder-storms, at intervals for five days in succession, commencing on Wednesday the 12th, and terminating on Sunday, the 16th. These visitations were exceedingly capricious, in violence and duration, as regards particular districts; but the most awful storms appear to have occurred in the districts remote from Newcastle on the 14th, and in that town two days later. On Friday the 14th, at the village of Glanton, near Whittingham, North-

umberland, and its neighbourhood, about ten o'clock in the morning, the face of the sky became shrouded in clouds of sable, and all was dark and dismal as if some terrible convulsion of nature was about to take place: the animals of the field, as well as the fowls of heaven, seemed to possess an instinctive consciousness of an approaching thunder-storm by hastening to places of refuge. The awful grandeur which at this moment pervaded the face of nature was speedily increased by vivid flashes of forked lightning, accompanied with loud and lengthened peals of thunder, which followed each other in rapid succession, increasing in magnitude and awful splendour, and filling every bosom with dread and consternation until the evening—one clap of thunder in particular, resembled in its effects a heavy discharge of shot falling upon the roofs of the houses, which caused some of the inhabitants to run to the door for safety. At this interval a servant of Mr. Carnaby's, of Shawdon Wood House, came galloping at full speed for Doctor Crea, bringing the painful intelligence that Miss Donkin (Mr. Carnaby's niece) was struck by the electric fluid, and this dreadful catastrophe spread additional terror throughout the village. Mr. Crea hastened to Mr. Carnaby's residence with all possible speed, but the vital spark had fled, and there remained on his arrival nothing of that once truly amiable young lady but a blighted and withered form, deprived of its existence by an unexpected and awfully sudden calamity. It appears that Miss Donkin had gone into the kitchen for her maid to fasten some part of her dress, and there unfortunately sat down below a bell that was hung in the kitchen; just at that moment the electric fluid struck the west chimney, and, entering the house, ran along the bell-wire to the kitchen, and, descending from thence upon the head of Miss Donkin, struck her down with violence. Her maid, who had escaped, ran to her and covered her head (which was all in a blaze) with her apron, and extinguished the flame, but the young lady never rose more. There were two dogs lying near Miss Donkin, one was killed on the spot, and the other was so much injured as to render necessary its destruction. In addition to the injuries recorded above, much damage was done to the glass in the frame work coverings of various hot-houses, and also to the windows in gentlemen's mansions. During the storm, of the 14th, 470 panes of glass were broken in the residence of Charles John Clavering, esq., of Axwell-park, and 500 squares of glass were also demolished in the hot-houses. At Ryton, a cow was killed, and at Stella six sheep experienced a similar fate. At Winlaton, the storm was very severe, and the vinery, melon-frames, &c. of G. H. Ramsay, esq., were greatly damaged. The lightning, on the 14th also struck a chimney of the Albion hotel, in Norfolk-street, North Shields, and a chimney of Mr.

Fenwick's house, at South Preston, near that town. At Sunderland on the same day, the electric fluid struck the toll-house at the end of the iron bridge, which it entered by a window, and was conducted by bell-wires into various apartments, and escaped through another window. The window by which it entered was entirely destroyed, and several others were much injured. It also struck the house occupied by Mr. G. Airey, clock and watch maker, High street, Bishopwearmouth, which it entered by the shop window, and followed the course of the bell-wires through the house, communicating by the chimney to the adjoining house, occupied by Mr. Tyzack, grocer. Both chimnies were set on fire, but were speedily extinguished. Mr. Jas. Summers, at his farm on Brasside Moor, within about three miles of the city of Durham, had a stack of oats burnt to ashes, on the 16th, from the effects of lightning. At Newcastle in the afternoon of Sunday the storm was truly terrific. The electric explosions which took place directly over the town, were the loudest ever remembered, and had the vibratory effect of shaking every dwelling. Vivid flashes of forked lightning pursued their capricious course through the air, careering amidst the storm of hail and rain, and lighting up the otherwise gloomy scene with a sublime but awful grandeur. Considering the unprecedented violence and long-continuance of the storm, and the successive discharges of what may be termed "heaven's artillery," the injury done to property was comparatively small. The houses of Mr. Wm. Beaumont, Mr. Mackreth, and the Misses Wright, situate contiguous to each other at High Swinburn-place, were severally entered, the electric fluid running along the course of the bell-wires, which, in all the houses, where not melted, had been evidently heated red hot through a great part of their course, and at most of the angles and joints a portion of the metal had been fused, and impressed upon the walls. Several of the bells were torn from their fastenings, the plaster rent from the walls, and where the lightning escaped from Mr. Beaumont's cellar a number of bricks were struck out of the arched nook of the cellar, and driven to a considerable distance. The Misses Wright were from home at the time; Mr. Mackreth's servant was thrown down in the kitchen but was not hurt; neither Mr. nor Mrs. Mackreth sustained any injury, nor did any of the family of Mr. Beaumont. At Alnwick several buildings received partial damage. The lightning passed down the chimney of one house, and set fire to a piece of paper in a boy's hand, while he was sitting in the lower room, and another child was thrown down, but they sustained no serious injury.—*Local Papers.*

1837 (July 15).—There were at this period seventy-four vessels on the stocks on the banks of the river Wear, in different stages of for-

wardness—twenty-one below, and fifty-three above Sunderland bridge. The greater proportion were on the north side of the river.—*Local Papers.*

1837 (July 21).—The James, of Perth, John M'Laren, master, was lying at the Clarence staiths, near Stockton; her cargo of coals was completely finished taking in at half-past ten o'clock that evening, and at eleven the crew went to rest. The master and mate to the cabin, and three men and a boy to the fore-castle. About two o'clock the following morning, as a keel or sloop was passing down the river, the men on board observed smoke issuing from the James, when they hailed the vessel, and the master and mate came on deck and found the vessel on fire. They immediately proceeded to the fore-castle, and, melancholy to relate, found the three men and the boy all dead, from suffocation. A coroner's inquest was held the same day (Saturday) on the bodies, and a verdict returned of accidental death from fire, caused by the negligence of the coal trimmers in placing their candles against the ceiling of the vessel.—*Ibid.*



July 24.—Monday, Died, at his palace of Hereford, the hon. and right rev. Dr. Edward Grey, lord bishop of Hereford, and fourth brother of earl Grey, of Howick, in the county of Northumberland. His lordship's demise was very unexpected; he had only just returned from attending his parliamentary duties, and, although indisposed, his illness was not considered of any importance, and he had appointed the times and places for holding his visitations and confirmations for the current year. On Sunday morning, however, he was seized with inflammation, and, notwithstanding the best medical advice, died at seven o'clock the following morning. His lordship, who was in his fifty-sixth year, left a family of fourteen children, the youngest of whom was only about a year and a half old. The bishop was elevated to the episcopal chair, on the death of Dr. Isaac Huntingford, in 1832, under the administration of his brother, Earl Grey; and the appointment was made in the most flattering manner by the late king. In politics his lordship usually supported the Whigs, though latterly he was much and strenuously opposed to those measures which threatened to affect the stability of the established church, and the revered institutions of the country.—*Ibid.*

July 26.—Wednesday, about eleven or twelve o'clock on the forenoon, a fire was discovered in Mr. James Edgar's work-shop, George

stairs, Newcastle. The North British, Newcastle, and North of England fire engines were shortly on the spot, but the flames were not extinguished until considerable damage had been done to the premises. The whole of the workmen's tools used in that part of the shop were burnt, together with the work-benches, lathes, &c., besides a large quantity of new furniture nearly finished. It was with great difficulty that the other part of the shop was saved. The adjoining tenements suffered more or less.—*Local Papers*.

1837 (July).—This month there was a general election. The following are the results of the various contests in the counties of Northumberland and Durham.—*Ibid*.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

	<i>Plumpers.</i>	<i>Splits.</i>
William Ord, (Whig)	60	1792.
John Hodgson Hinde, (Con.)	116	1701.
Charles J. Bigge, (Whig)	2	1187.
J. B. Coulson, (Con.)	2	1127.
A. H. Beaumont, (Rad.)	69	290.
Total number who voted		3173.

TYNEMOUTH.

Geo. F. Young, (Whig)	269.
Sir. Chas. E. Grey, (Whig)	253.
Total number who voted	522.

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED.

	<i>Plumpers.</i>	<i>Splits.</i>
Richard Hodgson, (Con.)	2	357.
Wm. Holmes, (Con.)	3	354.
Sir Rufane Donkin, (Whig)	206	328.
		<i>Split Votes.</i>
Hodgson and Holmes		292.
Hodgson and Donkin		63.
Holmes and Donkin		59.
Total number who voted		625.

NORTH DURHAM.

	<i>Plumpers.</i>	<i>Splits.</i>
Hedworth Lambton, (Whig)	85	2358.
Hon. H. T. Liddell, (Con.)	1727	2323.
Sir Wm. Chaytor, (Whig)	9	2062.
		<i>Split Votes.</i>
Lambton and Liddell		408.
Lambton and Chaytor		1865.
Liddell and Chaytor		188.
Total number who polled		6282.

CITY OF DURHAM.

	<i>Plumpers.</i>	<i>Splits.</i>
Hon. A. Trevor, (Con.)	238	465.
Wm. C. Harland, (Whig)	105	373.
Thos. C. Granger, (Whig)	162	371.
		<i>Split Votes.</i>
Trevor and Harland		143.
Trevor and Granger		84.
Harland and Granger		125.

SUNDERLAND.

	<i>Plumpers.</i>	<i>Splits.</i>
William Thompson, (Con.)	332	688.
Andrew White, (Whig)	75	628.
David Barclay, (Whig)	37	591.
		<i>Split Votes.</i>
Thompson and White		214.
Thompson and Barclay		151.
White and Barclay		367.
Total number who voted		1176.

GATESHEAD.

Cuthbert Rippon, (Whig)	236.
John W. Williamson, (Whig)	151.
Total number who voted	387.

Local Papers.

1837 (July 28).—In North Shields, a young woman named Turnbull was struck by lightning and severely injured. The electric fluid struck two pigs in Church-way, and killed them upon the spot.—*Ibid.*

July 31.—The first marriage in a dissenting chapel at South Shields under the new act, took place at the Secession chapel there, a great concourse of people assembled.—*Ibid.*

August 2.—The first marriage, in Newcastle, under the new act of parliament, took place in the superintendent's office in that town, on the above day.—*Ibid.*

August 3.—As John Marchant, servant to Mr. Potts, of Long Benton, was driving a cart drawn by two horses, and following three other carts through the village, about half-past two in the afternoon, he was struck while sitting on the cart by lightning, and killed on the spot; the leading horse of the cart was also killed, the shaft horse not receiving the least injury.—*Ibid.*

August 10.—The Low light-house at North Shields was struck by the electric fluid; part of the lighting apparatus was injured, a large stone was displaced, and another cracked: the lightning having once entered the premises, passed through every part of the house,

following the course of the bell-wires. The lightning also struck the house of Mr. Janeson, in Swan-street, Gateshead ; it entered a room where Mr. J. and his son were sitting, forced the plaster off the wall, and shivered the window, but neither were hurt.—*Local Papers*.

1837 (Aug. 12).—The two annual fairs, heretofore held in the streets or places in Newcastle, called the Sandhill, the Side, and Dean-street, on the 12th day of August and the 29th day of October, in every year, were, by an order of the council of that borough, ordered to be removed to Carliol square, and other streets and places adjoining where they have since been held.—*Ibid*.

August 12.—Saturday, at night, about twelve o'clock, a fire was observed in the premises belonging to Messrs. Middleton and Son, tanners and curriers, Darlington. Although the alarm was soon given, and the fire engines brought to play upon it, the fire spread rapidly, and great fear was entertained about the dwelling house, but from the exertions of the firemen the fire next the house was got under, and the flames were confined to the workshops, which now assumed an awful appearance, and had it not been for the calmness of the night, the whole of the premises must have been burnt down. Two engines were sent for from Stockton, but before they arrived, the fire was in a great measure extinguished. The fire got to a bark house, in which was a great quantity of that material, which stopped the progress of the flames. It was supposed that the fire originated in the engine house. A great deal of thieving was carried on during the confusion. The damage was estimated at several thousands. A person of the name of Martin was much injured by the fall of the walls.—*Ibid*.

August 13.—Sunday, between the hours of one and two in the afternoon, a fire was discovered in Messrs. Fell & Co's., pottery, at St. Peter's, near Newcastle. In a short time three engines were on the ground. The fire by this time had made great progress, but was gradually got under. It was not extinguished till between four and five o'clock. The damage was estimated at between £500 and £600. The property was insured in the North British fire office. The fire was supposed to have originated in one of the stoves.—*Ibid*.

August 19.—The fine, large, powerful steam ship *Vesta*, of Newcastle, left Leith for the former place, as usual, at six o'clock on the evening of the above day, Saturday. A fog set in so thick that it was extremely difficult to see any thing beyond the vessel, almost the only object to be discerned in her passage was the Bass rock, and that indistinctly. Notwithstanding every precaution of the captain and crew, the vessel struck on a rock at Newbiggin, about fifty yards from the shore, which knocked off her fore foot. A few seconds

before she struck, the man with the lead called out "two and twenty fathoms." On the tide going down the passengers quitted the vessel, and came over land to Morpeth, and thence to Newcastle. She sustained very little damage. As she struck during a spring tide great difficulty was encountered to get her off.—*Local Papers*.

1837 (Aug. 20).—At six o'clock on the morning of this day, Sunday, the *Splendid*, one of the Tyne steam vessels, sailed on a pleasure trip from Newcastle to Sunderland, having on board from eighty to one hundred passengers. The day being exceedingly fine, a very pleasant voyage was anticipated, but on the vessel reaching Sunderland bar, at the time of low water, she unfortunately struck, soon after filled with water, and subsequently became a total wreck. Fortunately, however, there was no loss of life, and the machinery and part of the materials were saved.—*Ibid*.

August 22.—The foundation stone of a Wesleyan chapel was laid at Wallbottle, Northumberland, by Mr. William Hunter, of that place.—*Ibid*.

August 29.—About two o'clock on the morning, a fire was discovered in the shop of Mr. Fawcett, grocer and tallow chandler, in the Side, Newcastle, which threatened destruction to the premises; but by the prompt assistance of the neighbours, and a good supply of water, the flames were nearly got under before the arrival of the



HEAD OF THE SIDE, NEWCASTLE (1844).

engines, which prevented the fire extending further than the interior of the shop, which, however, was completely destroyed, together with nearly the whole of the stock. The fire was supposed to have originated in consequence of sparks from some of the flues in the tenements above, having fallen upon some shavings and old sugar bags, which were put in the fire place in the shop to prevent the smoke from descending. The premises and stock were insured.—*Local Papers*.

1837 (August 29).—The consideration of the desirableness and of the advantages to be derived from the establishment of public baths in Newcastle, having occupied much of the public attention, after a number of meetings for the purpose of deciding upon the best plans and arrangements, it was finally determined, at a meeting of the shareholders and others, held on the above day, immediately to proceed to erect such baths, according to designs submitted by John Dobson, esq., architect, who had visited most establishments of the kind in England, for the purpose, if possible, of improving upon their construction. The building occupies an area of 176 feet by 134, and stands eastward of Ridley-place; the principal approach being from Northumberland street. The ground is leasehold from the trustees of the hospital of St. Mary Magdalen, for a period of 99 years, renewable within the term. The entrance into the baths is by a handsome front on the east; on the left of the entrance there is a suite of baths appropriated to the use of the ladies, and on the right is the gentlemen's bath. There are two open plunge baths—one for gentlemen 100 feet by 50; the other for the working classes 96 feet by 30, increasing in depth from 3 feet to 5 feet 6 inches. The former of these plunge baths is surrounded by warm, tepid, medicated, shower, vapour, and hot air baths, with suitable and commodious dressing rooms for ladies, gentlemen, and boys. It is much to be regretted however, that owing to a want of adequate support on the part of the public, the shareholders have been obliged to let off the east end of the building to the members of the Northumberland Cricket Club.—*Ibid*.

August 30.—The gentlemen archers of Darlington held their annual meeting. The day not being very favourable prevented many from witnessing that manly and elegant diversion. After several hours shooting, the prizes were awarded as follows:—The silver medal or captain's prize to Mr. Richard Wilson, solicitor, who placed the first arrow in the gold. The silver gorget, or lieutenant's prize to Mr. William Crowe, who first hit the red. The silver cup and silk banner, or ensign's prize to Mr. J. Coffey, who first hit the blue. The silver bugle and captaincy in numbers to Joseph Forster, esq.; and, the horn spoon to Mr. Frost. The party dined afterwards at Mr. Hird's,

the Fleece inn, and spent the remainder of the day with the greatest hilarity.—*Local Papers.*

1837 (Aug. 30).—A chapel of ease to Shotley, St. John's, situated at Snod's Edge, in a central part of that parish, was consecrated by the bishop of Durham. After the ceremony of consecration, his lordship preached an excellent and appropriate sermon from St. Luke, chap. 7, ver. 22, to a congregation crowded to excess. After the duties of the day, the bishop and his friends partook of a luncheon with Mr. Burnett, of Black Hedley, and proceeded from thence to Minsteracres, the seat of George Silvertop, esq., to dinner.—*Ibid.*

Same day, a noble instance of self-devotion in saving the life of a fellow-creature, was witnessed on the Quayside of Newcastle. Some boys were at play, and by some means, one of them, named Walker, living in Silver-street, fell into the river and immediately disappeared. A keelman instantly plunged in after him, and for a few seconds of intense interest neither of them were seen. At length the keelman rose to the surface bearing with him the boy in a state of insensibility. He was taken home, however, and speedily recovered. The name of the humane and courageous man was Wm. Sword.—*Ibid.*

August 31.—On the evening of this day, at half past nine o'clock, a tremendous report was heard in the neighbourhood of Northumberland square, North Shields, which greatly alarmed the inhabitants. It was supposed to have been some concussion in the air, but there were no thunder clouds seen at the time.—*Ibid.*

August.—A superiorly constructed life boat was shipped by Mr. Wake, boat builder, port of Sunderland, for Beade, North coast of Cornwall. She was remarkable for her lightness and buoyancy being fitted up with copper air tubes, and so contrived, that she will empty herself in thirty seconds, if filled with water whilst floating.—*Ibid.*

August.—The herring fishery at Cullercoats, was most productive this season; it was supposed there had not been such a take of herring for at least twenty years.—*Ibid.*

A gold coin of the emperor Nero, of great beauty and in excellent preservation, was found about this time, by a woman while hoeing turnips in a field near Durham. The head of the emperor is as fresh and prominent as when it was struck. Obverse, AVGVSTVS NERO CAESAR. Reverse, Jupiter sitting on a throne, IVPITER CVSTOS. The coin was purchased by the rev. James Raine, of Crook hall.—*Gent's. Mag.*

Early in this month, while some workmen were quarrying stone for the directors of the Newcastle and Carlisle railway, on the top of Boreum, a high hill in the township of Thorngraston, and parish of Haltwhistle in Northumberland, one of them found a copper vessel,

containing 63 coins, 3 of gold and 60 of silver. The gold coins were, one of Claudius Cæsar, reverse Nero Claudius Drusus Germanicus; one of Nero, and one of Vespasian. Of the silver coins 3 were of Galba, 1 of Otho, 1 of Nero, 15 of Vespasian, 8 of Domitian, 1 of Nerva, 17 of Trajan, 4 of Hadrian, and 10 of Empresses, Consular, or uncertain. Those of Trajan and Hadrian, are as fresh as if new from the die. The rest, especially the 10 last, more or less worn. Each of the gold coins was wrapped up in a separate piece of greenish leather or vellum, which was still quite tough and strong. The vessel in which they were contained was in the form of a basket, about 6 inches long, boat-shaped, narrow at both ends, covered with a copper lid, and having a slender bow or handle, also of copper. The lid at one end, had a hinge; and at the other, fastened with a spring slot. The hill on which this interesting discovery was made, overlooks the beautiful green site of the Roman station of Vindolana: and to the north, the venerable ruins of the Roman wall skirt the horizon, and the gates of the celebrated stations of Borcovieus and Æsica are seen, and the track of the old Roman military way nearly to the walls of Magna, a station about the time of Hadrian, garrisoned by a cohort of Hamian archery, a people from the antient town of Hamah on the Orontes, about 62 miles from Aleppo. All these four stations are within the precincts of the parish of Haltwhistle. Mr. Hodgson, the historian of Northumberland, from whose minute book these notices were taken, is of opinion that this batch of coins was deposited in, or soon after, the year 120, in which Hadrian made his memorable expedition to Britain, as one of them bears cos. II, and the three other cos. III.—*Gent's. Mag.*

1837 (Sep. 1).—As two apprentices, blacksmiths to the late Mr. Elliott, Millburn place, North Shields, were busy assorting some old iron in the shop, they fell in with several old bomb shells, one of which, about six inches in diameter, had a tube of brass, which they thought of more value than the iron, and therefore laid it on the anvil and struck it a blow with a hammer, it immediately exploded, wounding both of them very seriously, part of it going through the roof. One of them was immediately taken to the infirmary where his arm was amputated. It appeared that about four years previously two foreign gentlemen were trying experiments with these shells on Cullercoats sands, and which the late Mr. Elliott had fitted up for them. On leaving the town, they had probably left the one in question, which was charged with fulminating powder. Two other boys were in the shop at the time, but escaped unhurt.—*Local Papers.*

September 4.—The foundation stone of the Wesleyan methodist chapel, in Blenheim street, Newcastle, was laid on the above day,

Monday, by William Nesham, esq., surgeon, amidst a large concourse of spectators. The chapel having been completed, was opened for worship on Friday the 26th October, 1838, on which occasion, sermons were preached in the morning and evening by the rev. Robert Newton, and in the afternoon, by the rev. Theophilus Lessey. The building will accommodate 1000 persons with sittings, including 300 for the poor. There are also extensive school-rooms underneath. A fine toned organ has since been erected in this chapel, and was opened in April 1843.—*Local Papers*.

1837 (Sep. 5).—Died, at his residence, the Bank's cottage, near Durham, in the 99th year of his age, Count Joseph Boruwlaski, the celebrated Polish dwarf, a native of the province of Pokucia, in Polish Russia. The extraordinary small stature, great age, and lively genius of this amiable person, entitled him to be ranked as one of the most singular productions of nature; while his long residence in the city of Durham and cheerful demeanour, greatly endeared him to a numerous circle of friends and acquaintances. He was in early life patronized by the countess Humiecka, a Polish lady, and after having visited with her (in consequence of the distracted state of his native country, in the time of Stanislaus, the last king of Poland,) various countries of Europe, he remained some years in Paris, which place he quitted, prior to the French revolution, and came over to this country in 1782, when, having been seen by some of the prebendaries of Durham, he was prevailed upon by that body to take up his abode in the above cottage for life, they engaging to allow him a handsome income, which he enjoyed up to his death. The Count's person, though of diminutive formation, was of the completest symmetry, his height being short of thirty-six inches. It is rather remarkable that he had brothers and sisters, some of them above six feet. His remains were placed near to those of the late Stephen Kemble, in the nine altars in the cathedral.—*Gent's. Mag.*

September 6.—The Lumley Castle Archery Club held one of their meetings at that place. The medal was won by Miss Greenwell, of Durham, and there was a ball in the evening.—*Local Papers*.

September 6.—The foundation stone of the splendid Grey column in Grey street, Newcastle, was laid by Messrs. John and Benjamin Green the architects. A glass bottle hermetically sealed, containing a drawing of the building, surmounted with a statue of the noble earl, a list of subscribers to the undertaking, a collection of silver and copper coins of the Brunswick dynasty, with several local medals and tradesmen's tokens contributed by Mr. John Fenwick, and a parchment scroll, was deposited in a chamber cut in the stone, and encased in plaster of Paris. The scroll contained the following:—



THE GREY COLUMN.

“THE FOUNDATION STONE
OF
THIS COLUMN,

ERECTED BY PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION IN COMMEMORATION OF THE TRANS-
CENDENT SERVICES RENDERED TO

HIS COUNTRY, BY
THE RIGHT HON. CHARLES EARL GREY,
VISCOUNT HOWICK, KNIGHT OF THE MOST NOBLE
ORDER OF THE GARTER, AND BARONET,

Was laid on the sixth day of September, one thousand eight hun-
dred and thirty-seven,

BY JOHN GREEN AND BENJAMIN GREEN, ESQRS.,
ARCHITECTS.

BUILDING COMMITTEE.

The Rev. John Saville Ogle, of Kirkley, in the County of Northum-
berland, Clerk, A. M., Prebendary of Durham. Edward Swinburne,
of Capheaton, Esq. Thomas Emerson Headlam, of Newcastle
upon Tyne, Esq., M. D. John Grey, of Dilston, Esq. Thomas
Richard Batson, of Newcastle upon Tyne, Esq., and Alderman.
Armorer Donkin, of Newcastle upon Tyne, Esq., and Alderman,
Ralph Park Philipson, of Newcastle upon Tyne, Esq., and Town
Councillor. John Fenwick, of Newcastle upon Tyne, Esq. James

Hodgson, of Newcastle upon Tyne, Esq., and Alderman. Emerson Charnley, of Newcastle upon Tyne, Esq., and Town Councillor.”—On the 11th of August 1838, the column had reached its elevation, and on the 24th of the same month, the statue of earl Grey was placed upon its summit. The bells of the churches immediately afterwards commenced a merry peal, and continued at intervals during the remaining portion of the day. In the first week of November the scaffolding was removed, and the column exposed to the full gaze of the public. As a work of art, the figure is a noble effort of genius, and reflects the highest credit on its accomplished author, Mr. Bailey, whilst the resemblance it bears to the venerable nobleman to whom it is intended to do honour, is all that his most ardent admirers could wish. The height of the column to the top of the figure is 133 feet, and the diameter of the shaft, at the base, is 9 feet 11 inches. The architecture is Roman doric, and there is a staircase consisting of 164 steps to the summit of the capital, from which there is a fine panoramic view of the town and the surrounding country.—*Local Papers.*

September 8.—This day, a public meeting was held in the Guildhall, Newcastle, inviting the British Association to hold their next annual meeting in that town. The chair was occupied by the right worshipful the mayor, and the resolutions were moved and seconded by Dr. Headlam, T. M. Greenhow, esq., Professor Johnston, of the Durham university, and George Townshend Fox, esq., of Durham. The meeting was more numerous and respectably attended than any that had been held in the Guildhall for a long time—there being present about one hundred and fifty gentlemen, whose station, acquirements, and character constituted them the representatives of the literary and scientific talent of the town and district. The meeting originated with the committees of the scientific institutions of the town, in the object of which the mayor and corporation promptly joined. No public notice was given of the intention of these bodies to invite the British Association to hold its next meeting in Newcastle, but the subject once agitated, the public feeling could not be restrained, and a requisition to the mayor, requesting his worship to give the inhabitants generally an opportunity of concurring in the invitation of the municipal and scientific bodies, was promptly and numerous signed. Such was the origin of the meeting, the proceedings at which were perfectly enthusiastic.—*Ibid.*

September 8.—A Masonic Provincial Grand Lodge was held at Chester-le-Street, which was presided over by the earl of Durham, in his capacity of grand master for the county, and attended by a numerous assemblage of the craft. The good feeling which had always

existed between his lordship and the brethren was never more pleasingly illustrated than it was throughout the whole of the proceedings on this occasion. It was incidentally stated, that masonry was never in a more prosperous condition in the county, and that under the auspices of the noble lord it had lately increased and was still increasing in numbers, respectability and efficiency. After the proceedings of the Lodge had been concluded, 120 brethren sat down to an excellent dinner at brother Lowson's, the Lambton Arms, lord Durham in the chair.—*Local Papers.*

1837 (Sep. 10).—Sunday, the coal brig Sprightly from Shields to Whitstable, with six hands, was totally wrecked off Flamborough head, and all hands perished, with the exception of one man, named Major, belonging to Folkstone, who, after divesting himself of his clothes, succeeded in swimming through a very rough sea to the shore, which was distant from the vessel about a mile. Although much exhausted, he, with a strength supplied by desperation, climbed a huge rock, and was thus saved from the death which had overwhelmed his ill-fated shipmates.—*Ibid.*

September 11.—While Mr. Ralph Wardle and Peter Smith, of Colliery Row, were at work in the Aimwell pit, Rainton colliery, on this day, Monday, the roof of the mine fell upon them, and they were both killed on the spot.—*Ibid.*

Same day, coal was obtained in Mr. G. H. Ramsay's new colliery, called Blaydon main, which lies between Winlaton and Blaydon, and a very short distance from the Newcastle and Carlisle railway. The sample appeared to be of the first-rate quality; the seam was three feet eight inches thick, and was intended for sea-sale. Rejoicings took place on the occasion in the village among the work people employed there.—*Ibid.*

September 11.—The Free and Accepted Masons of Northumberland held a Grand Provincial Lodge, at the Turk's Head inn, Grey street, Newcastle, for the purpose of installing the Provincial Grand Master, and other officers. The earl of Durham, Provincial Grand Master for Northumberland, accompanied by the hon. J. G. Ponsonby, hon. Arthur Kinnaird, G. P. Parke, esq., and Dr. Doorat, arrived in two carriages and four between twelve and one o'clock. His lordship having proceeded to the lodge, he was installed as Provincial Grand Master, and the other officers of the lodge were duly elected. After the election and the usual ceremonies had been gone through, upwards of 110 of the brethren sat down to a sumptuous dinner at which his lordship presided.—*Ibid.*

September 12.—Considerable interest was excited in Sunderland, by the capture of an escaped convict of the name of James Hevey,

who was transported for life at the Durham assizes in 1833. Mr. Hall, superintendent of police was aware that the convict was in town, with dyed hair, &c., and meeting him on the above day, he took him into custody. The convict, however, after a short interval knocked him down and made his escape. It was afterwards ascertained that he had gone to sea in the brig *Blenheim*, and a number of the police went off in a steam-boat, and speedily overtook the ship, the master of which denied the convict, but upon search being made he was found in the fore-castle, brought away, and, after an examination of considerable length before the magistrates, he was committed to Durham gaol.—*Local Papers*.

1837 (Sep. 12).—Tuesday, the right reverend the lord bishop of Durham, held his primary visitation in the church of St. Nicholas, Newcastle, which was rather numerously attended both by clergy and laity. At this visitation the clergy of the deaneries of Newcastle and Corbridge were summoned to attend. At the usual hour of morning service, the lord bishop entered the church, accompanied by a number of clergymen, and soon afterwards proceeded to the seat set apart for his reception. The rev. the vicar of Newcastle read prayers, after which an excellent sermon was preached by the rev. Dr. Besly, vicar of Long Benton, from the first epistle of St. Paul to Timothy, chap.



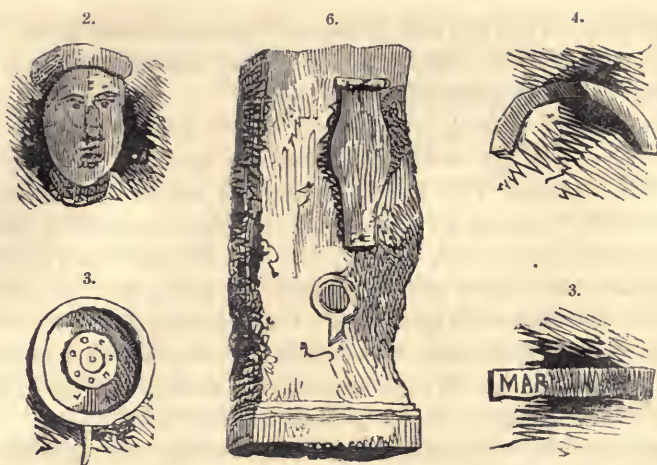
Pue Standards, S. NICHOLAS, Newcastle.
Temp. Car. I.

iii. verse 15, "The Church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." In the course of the service, a voluntary, composed by Mr. Ions, was finely played by him, and the choir sung the anthem, "Judge me, O Lord," adapted from the 12th mass of Mozart, by professor Pratt, of Cambridge, with much sweetness and precision. At the conclusion of the sermon, his lordship took his place beside the altar, and the names of the clergy were called over, and their papers received. In the course of the list it seemed that there were some reverend gentlemen who did not answer, and who had not, it appeared upon enquiry, sent any reason for their absence. Upon this his lordship remarked that the opportunities which a bishop had of meeting with his clergy were so few, that it was extremely desirable that they should omit no opportunity of meeting him, and especially at a primary visitation. The attendance on that occasion was numerous and very satisfactory; but it did appear that there were some gentlemen who had staid away without a sufficient reason being assigned. At the conclusion of the list, some more absentees having been called, his lordship observed that the number of reverend gentlemen absent in this district, exceeded the number absent throughout the whole of the county of Durham. His lordship then desired Mr. Davison, the deputy-registrar, to write to those gentlemen, requiring that the reasons for their absence might be sent to him.—*Local Papers.*

1837 (Sep. 13).—The bishop of Durham visited Morpeth, and examined the Girl's Borough school recently established in that town; and in the welfare of which he had previously manifested a peculiar interest.—*Ibid.*

September 13.—The foundation stone of the bridge over the river Font at Netherwitton, was laid on the above day, Wednesday, by R. Trevelyan, esq., in the presence of a large assemblage of spectators. A number of silver and copper coins were laid in the foundation. This bridge is a handsome structure of two segmental arches, of twenty-three feet span each, and has proved a great benefit to the public, as the river in heavy rains rises very rapidly, so much so, that a person a few years previously (who was not aware of the impetuosity of the stream) lost his life in attempting to cross it. The bridge was built by subscription.—*Ibid.*

Same day, the Vivid, steamer, of Newcastle, left the river Tyne with a party of gentlemen to attend Sunderland races. On her return in the evening, she hove in sight of Shields' bar about five o'clock, with a flag of distress hoisted, and remained in that precarious situation for upwards of an hour. Her machinery had broken down, and the sea at the bar being very high, the South Shields life-



dog sitting between, but above them: and on the left hand side of the face of the capital, a squat, ill-drawn figure, with a radiated head, the right hand outstretched, and the left holding over its head something like a palm branch. When found, it stood upon a large square stone into which it had formerly been sunk about four inches; this rested upon four rude stone pillars, a foot each in height, and four feet below the present surface. On the top of each pillar and under the slab was found a coin: two of these were of copper, about the size of an halfpenny, and another seemingly of gold, was somewhat larger. The obverse bears a head; the legend, *DIVA FAVSTINA*; and the reverse represents the figure of a female, with the legend, *AUGUSTA.*, in the exergue, *sc.* Under and about the pillars, the ground was paved, and water had apparently run between them and the slab. Probably the water of the adjoining spring was made to run as fountains, over which these altars and other religious signa were placed as guardians. Fragments of bones, wood and earthenware, were found on the spot. The figures on the capital seem to relate to the time when the sun enters Leo, (July 23,) and the dog star rises with it, and the water of wells is refreshing to the traveller.

Numerous Roman remains have (here and hereabout) been disinterred at various periods. The other illustrations represent several, now at Castle Nook, a farm house just without the station. The second is a head as large as life; the third, a fibula; the fourth, a fragment of a spring ring; the fifth, a fragment of red tile, and the sixth, an altar built into the wall over the stable door, bearing a pitcher and a patera. The engravings are made from sketches by T. Sopwith, esq.—*Ed. MS., Sopwith MS., Hodgson, Local Papers, etc.*

1837 (Sep. 19).—The lord bishop of Chester preached in St. John's church, Newcastle, on behalf of the National Schools then about to be established in that parish.—*Local Papers*.

September 20.—Died, in Newcastle, after a few day's illness, in the 78th year of his age, much and deservedly esteemed and respected, Mr. John Rawling Wilson, for many years one of the landing surveyors of the customs at Newcastle; the duties of which office he efficiently and honourably discharged. Mr. Wilson was a gentleman of considerable literary and antiquarian research; and from his long residence and extensive knowledge of the town and neighbourhood, he was generally referred to in matters connected with its history and inhabitants. Mr. W. was a member of the Literary and Philosophical Society, nearly from its commencement.—*Ibid*.

September 21.—Thursday, the right reverend the lord bishop of Durham delivered his charge, to the clergy of the deanery of Bam-borough, in the parish church of Berwick. The reverend the vicar performed the usual morning service; after which the rev. Dr. Gilly, vicar of Norham, and one of the prebendaries of Durham, preached an eloquent and appropriate sermon, from the 18th chapter of Exodus, the 25th verse:—"And Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over all the people, rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens." The discourse, which was listened to throughout with the deepest attention by a most numerous and attentive congregation, entered into an able defence of the established church—showing in a most conclusive manner that the progress of secession from the church of England was mainly to be attributed to the population of the country having so far outstripped the means of the establishment—and insisted upon the great importance of extending those means, both as respects religious instruction, and pastoral superintendence. After the business of the day, the clergy and the mayor and magistrates of the borough, dined with the bishop at the Hen and Chickens inn, Upon the health of the bishop being proposed, the rev. Dr. Gilly addressed his lordship to the following effect:—"In the name of the clergy who are present on this occasion, I beg to thank your lordship for the kind and affectionate manner in which you have addressed us this morning. Differences of opinion prevail amongst us, on some of the subjects to which your lordship alluded; but we are all agreed on this—that the mild tone of your exhortations, the paternal interest you have expressed in the welfare of the diocese, and, I have to repeat, the kind and affectionate manner in which you have addressed us personally, demand this declaration of our thankfulness and respect. The bishop's reply was delivered

with considerable feeling. He assured the company that nothing could give him greater satisfaction than such a frank and manly avowal of sentiment as that which he had just heard. It was not a mere vague and complimentary form of words, but an expression of respect, rendered more valuable by the assurance that a difference of opinion might exist, without any diminution of that good understanding which ought always to prevail between a bishop and his clergy. He himself was perfectly open to conviction; and he had no doubt that his reverend brethren would, when the charge was printed, and they had thus an opportunity of exercising a more deliberate judgement, find their objections, in a great measure, if not entirely, removed."—*Local Papers*.

1837 (Sep.)—Thomas Holburn, 91 years of age, an inmate of Bedlington work-house, and who had been completely blind for 12 years, had his sight suddenly restored whilst at dinner. He at once resumed his rounds in the village, recognizing his old acquaintances and haunts.—*Ibid*.

September 22.—The Bishop of Durham, confirmed upwards of sixty children in the church of Norham. The interesting ceremony was witnessed by the following ministers of the Church of Scotland, viz:—rev. Mr. Robertson, of Coldingham, rev. Mr. Edgar, of Hutton, rev. Mr. Logan, of Swinton, rev. Mr. Robertson, of Ladykirk, rev. Mr. Christison, of Foulden, and the rev. Mr. Goldie, of Coldstream, all of whom were introduced to the bishop by Dr. Gilly. There were also present many Presbyterian families north of the Tweed, in the church to witness the confirmation, and their deeply fixed attention, and the tear that glistened in the eye of some of them, were tributes which they were not unwilling to pay to the impressiveness of the solemnity. After the ceremony, those who had been confirmed, with the whole of the congregation present upon the occasion, were invited by the vicar, (the rev. Dr. Gilly,) to partake of a collation prepared for them on the lawn of the vicarage. Tables were laid out under two handsome and wide-spreading walnut trees. The scene was highly interesting. On Monday the 25th, his lordship proceeded to confirm at Ford and Wooler. Whilst at Ford, his lordship inspected Ford castle, called on Mr. and Mrs. Blackden, and took luncheon with the rev. Mr. Knight, the vicar, where he signified the great satisfaction which he had received, not only from the noble specimens of Northumbrian scenery and border antiquity, in his progress through this part of the country, but from the moral beauty exhibited in the orderly habits and happy condition of the inhabitants. Casting his eye from the window of Ford vicarage over Flodden field, and the ground where the last great battle between England

and Scotland was fought, the amiable prelate expressed his delight that this interesting locality was now become the scene of so many peaceful triumphs and beneficial improvements.—*Local Papers.*

1837 (Sep. 27).—Died, at Pembroke, on board her Majesty's yacht, Royal Sovereign, captain W. P. Cumby, R. N., C. B. aged 66, late of Heighington, and a magistrate of the county of Durham. He was senior captain of her Majesty's navy, and had been recently appointed superintendent of the Pembroke yard. This brave and distinguished officer was first lieutenant of the Bellerophon, in the ever memorable battle of Trafalgar, and, his captain being killed in the action, the command *pro tem.* devolved on him; and, in 1806, he was promoted to the rank of post captain for his gallant conduct on that eventful day. From that period to the conclusion of the war, he was actively employed in the command of the Polyphemus and Hyperion frigates. Since then until March 1837, captain Cumby chiefly resided at Heighington, where he was universally esteemed and respected as a kind neighbour and a generous friend to the poor.—*Ibid.*

September 27.—The ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the Union Poor-house at South Shields, took place this day. The house is calculated to contain upwards of 150 paupers; it is divided into four classes, with every requisite convenience, including a large board-room for the guardians. The site is at the east end of the town, in an open and airy situation. The building is from a design of Messrs. J. and B. Green, architects, of Newcastle.—*Ibid.*

Sept. 28.—A fine specimen of the Death's Head Moth (*Acherontia Atropos*), was captured on the evening of this day, Thursday, at Close House, the residence of Mrs. Bewicke, near Newcastle, and presented by that lady, in a state of the finest preservation to the Natural History Society of that town, to be deposited in the Museum. The moth, about eight o'clock in the evening, probably attracted by the light of the fire, flew into the house of Mr. Clarke, the gardener. When on the wing it resembled, in size, a bat, its body being of considerable circumference, and upwards of two inches long; whilst its wings, when extended, are upwards of five inches across. Mrs. Clarke and her family were much alarmed, but Mr. Clarke shut the door, and set to work to capture the intruder. When pursued, its scream resembled that of a mouse, but it was eventually taken without having received the slightest injury. The body and wings of the insect are beautifully marked, and such perfect specimens of "The Death's Head Moth," as the one under notice are very rare.—*Ibid.*

October 3.—Tuesday, the bishop of Durham held a confirmation

at Hexham, when upwards of 600 young persons were confirmed; and on Wednesday, the venerable prelate held a visitation of the clergy, being the first visitation since Hexham was annexed to the see of Durham.—*Local Papers*.

1837 (Oct. 4).—Wednesday, the gentlemen of the long bow assembled at Dinsdale Spa hotel archery ground to contend for a silver cup, given by Mr. T. Forsyth for the most central gold during the day, which, at the end of the shooting, was awarded to Mr. T. Frost, he having had the three best golds; and Mr. G. J. Wilson obtained the sweepstakes for the captaincy of numbers. The targets were placed at 102 yards distance, and shooting commenced at half-past ten and continued till half-past three. This new entertainment at Dinsdale attracted a numerous and fashionable assemblage of ladies to witness the sport. After the shooting, the archers and their friends sat down to a most elegant dinner prepared for them by the proprietors of the Dinsdale Spa hotel, and spent the evening with that harmony and conviviality which has ever distinguished the merry men of the Greenwood tree.—*Ibid*.

October 10.—The bishop of Durham consecrated the new chapel at Bell's Close; and on the following day, that at Newburn, both in the parish of Newburn, Northumberland, and erected from designs by Messrs. Green, of Newcastle.—*Ibid*.

October 12.—Thursday, the elegant new church at Earsdon, near North Shields, was consecrated by the lord bishop of Durham, who preached an excellent and appropriate sermon on the occasion. The day being fine, a large concourse of all ranks were present. The length of the church is about 79 feet by 30 feet broad; is dedicated to St. Alban; is of the early English character; from plans by Messrs. John and Benjamin Green, of Newcastle; has a gallery across the west end, and contains 600 sittings, 200 of which are free. The church being erected on an eminence, its tower has an imposing appearance from the north for a considerable distance both by sea and land. The cost was estimated to exceed £2,200. The building committee were, the rev. Henry Warkman, Thomas Taylor, esq., and Thomas H. Pyle, esq. The foundation stone of this very elegant structure was laid on the 12th July 1836, and in it were deposited a vase of glass, a roll of parchment, and some coins. On the parchment is the following inscription:—"This church was built by voluntary subscription in the year MDCCCXXXVI.—Henry Warkman, perpetual curate, Geo. Scaife, Geo. Swan, Thomas Fenwick, churchwardens." The coins were of various value, all of the reign of William IV.—*Ibid*.

October 15.—Sunday, Trinity chapel, Gateshead, was opened for

divine service, according to the rites of the Church of England. The lord bishop of Durham delivered a most impressive and eloquent discourse to a very full congregation, after which a collection was made to the amount of £43. 5s. 1d. in aid of the funds for repairing and fitting up the chapel. This beautiful specimen of early English architecture, upon a scale of small dimensions, was erected about the year 1245, and endowed by Nicholas Farnham, bishop of Durham. In the year 1448, this institution was appropriated by bishop Neville to the prioress and convent of nuns of St. Bartholomew, in Newcastle, and it was surrendered to king Henry VIII. 1540, by Agnes Lawson, the prioress, and her chapter of nine nuns, of that house; since that time there is no proof that divine service has been performed in the chapel, and it gradually fell to decay, and was injured in 1746 in the popular tumult, which destroyed the house of Mr. Riddell, a Roman Catholic, adjoining the chapel. Cuthbert Ellison, esq. of Hebburn Hall, made a free donation of the site and remains of the chapel, and also of a plot of ground for building school rooms, capable of holding 300 hundred children, to the rector and churchwardens of Gateshead, and a liberal subscription of about one thousand pounds, including a donation of £100. from Mr. Ellison was raised by the parishioners of Gateshead, and other contributors towards repairing this edifice; the rector of Gateshead giving £40. per annum towards the endowment. The restoration was completed under the direction of Mr. Dobson, architect, and windows of stained glass, designed and executed by Mr. Wailes, of Newcastle, have been placed in the east end.—*Local Papers.*



TRINITY CHAPEL, GATESHEAD (1837).

CHAPTER XVII.



ABOUT this period, the Redesdale Iron Company was formed, and operations commenced under the directions of Mr. Thomas Hedley of Newcastle, the managing partner. There are few things in the present age of improvement which more distinctly displays the facility with which undertakings of great magnitude are now performed than those of the above company in the erection of their works for the manufacture of pig iron. The foundation stone of the blast furnace was laid by Mr. Hedley in the month of April 1838, and the expedition with which the work was executed (not more than five months having been devoted to it,) in a mountainous district where so much of what was necessary for its construction must have been to bring from a great distance, is truly astonishing, and at once bespeaks the liberality of the company, and the ability of the mechanics employed by them. Mr. Hedley has the credit of having proposed this work, and of laying down the general arrangement for the building, &c., having, during a survey in the previous year, discovered not only the rich vein which now supplies the furnaces, but found that iron ore had formerly been procured at numerous places on and near the river Rede and its tributaries, and that iron had been made near Woodburn as long as the forests of the district supplied sufficient charcoal. The Redesdale Iron Works are situated on the Watling-street, fourteen miles north of Hexham, on the extensive commons of Chesterhope and Skiddle Hill, in the manor of Redesdale, computed to contain upwards of four thousand acres, abounding in iron-stone of very superior quality, coal well adapted for smelting purposes, limestone, fire clay, fire stone, freestone, loam, and a variety of other

minerals, belonging to his Grace the Duke of Northumberland, under whom the Redesdale Iron Company are lessees.—*Local Papers, &c.*

1837 (Oct. 16).—Died, in the Bigg market, Newcastle, aged 50, universally respected, Thomas John Turnbull, deputy clerk of the peace for the county of Northumberland, and clerk to the magistrates for the west division of Castle Ward, Morpeth Ward, and the west and south divisions of Coquetdale ward, in the same county; he had been twenty four years in the office of the clerk of the peace, and his able discharge of the various duties with which he was entrusted, gained him the respect and confidence of the magistracy and authorities of the county.—*Ibid.*

October 17.—On the evening of this day, Tuesday, the hemp-loft of Messrs. Cameron and Co's. patent rope manufactory, in Keelman's lane, Bishopwearmouth, was discovered to be on fire. The fire-engines were brought to the spot with all speed, but fortunately they were not required, the fire having been extinguished before their arrival. The ceiling of the loft was much scorched, and a quantity of hemp, &c., destroyed. The loss was estimated at nearly £500.—*Ibid.*

October 18.—A very rare and extraordinary surgical operation was performed by Mr. Ward, surgeon, Church-street, Sunderland. A poor woman of the name of Hall, residing in Spring Garden-lane, was brought to the period of her accouchment, when, from physical causes, it was quite apparent the child could not be born in a natural way. To save the life of the poor woman was an object of intense anxiety, and as this could only be done by the performance of the Cesarian operation, which is attended with frightful danger, the circumstances attending the case of the poor patient were candidly made known to herself and friends, and a suggestion offered as to the propriety of having recourse to this very dangerous attempt. As the only chance of life being saved depended upon the operation, it was agreed to be done. Mr. Ward, accompanied by some professional friends, undertook the painful responsibility, and after a quick and dextrous operation produced a female child, which, it is presumed, had been dead two or three days. The patient underwent her sufferings with great calmness and fortitude, and the case excited a great deal of interest in Sunderland.—*Ibid.*

October 18.—The foundation stone of the Master Mariners' Asylum, in the borough of Tynemouth, was laid, under the auspices of his Grace the Duke of Northumberland, by Matthew Popplewell, esq., chairman of the Association, and appointed by his grace to perform the ceremony on the occasion. A very numerous body of the most respectable and influential gentlemen of the neighbourhood, the

magistrates, &c. &c., assembled at the Northumberland Arms' inn at three o'clock, and walked in procession to the site of the building, preceded by banners and a very efficient band. A platform was erected for the accommodation of the ladies, which was completely filled, and the whole scene presented a very enlivening appearance, the day being fine and a great concourse of people having assembled to witness the ceremony. On arriving at the site, Mr. Popplewell, after very appropriately addressing the people, deposited a bottle in the foundation stone containing the present coins of the realm, and afterwards a handsome inscription plate which was first read and then handed to him by John B. Tinley, esq. The mortar was then spread with a splendid silver trowel, ornamented with the duke of Northumberland's crest, the borough arms, and an appropriate inscription was read and handed by Mr. Benjamin Green, the architect. The stone was then lowered to its place amidst the loud acclamations of the assembly; after which, the mallet, the plumb, the level, and the square, were severally applied in adjusting it. The whole ceremony being over, three times three tremendous cheers were given, and the band played God save the Queen; after which the procession moved in the same order by a different route to the Northumberland Arms, where an elegant refreshment of fruit and wine was provided, and upwards of one hundred gentlemen partook of it. This very charitable institution reflects the greatest credit on the founders and subscribers, in affording relief and comfort to aged and decayed mariners. The plan of the building is in the form of a quadrangle, and the style of the architecture is Elizabethan. It is an important feature and highly ornamental to the borough of Tyne-mouth; there are sixteen houses in the whole, capable of accommodating two pensioners, each with two rooms, making a total number of thirty-two. The site is on the north side of the old barracks, and contains an acre of ground which was presented by the duke of Northumberland.—*Local Papers.*

1837 (Oct. 18).—On the evening of this day, the Aurora Borealis was particularly vivid in the neighbourhood of Newcastle, and spread across the heavens with a rich crimson hue, which rendered it unusually beautiful.—*Ibid.*

October 19.—Between four and five o'clock on the morning of this day, Thursday, an alarming fire was discovered in the workshop of Mr. Henry Ellis, plumber, &c., in Erick street, Newcastle, which destroyed the whole of the upper and a considerable part of the lower story; but in consequence of the early arrival of the fire engines, and speedily getting a good supply of water close at hand, the conflagration was got under without doing any damage to

the adjoining premises. Notwithstanding the great exertions made by the firemen and others that assisted, however, the drawing frames, lathes, benches, and the whole of the patterns, &c. were consumed. A portion of the stock and materials were insured, and Mr. Ellis, from the active assistance of the firemen, secured all his books and papers that were in his office, although partly damaged. Mr. Stephens, the superintendent, and a strong body of police, were in attendance, and kept a clear space for the operations of the firemen, and also by posting police at the necessary points prevented the possibility of plunder. The fire, it was supposed, originated by a beam near the stove taking fire.—*Local Papers*.

1837 (Oct. 19).—At Manor Wallsend Colliery, situate at South Shields, a melancholy catastrophe occurred. A young man named Thompson, and an old man of the name of Conway, had some words about their work, during which altercation the old man pushed once or twice at Thompson. The latter, in a moment of ungovernable irritation, took up a “pick,” and struck it into Conway’s body with such fatal force and effect, that he died upon the spot. An inquest was held on the following day, when, without quitting the room, the jury returned a verdict of manslaughter against Robert Thompson. He was tried at Durham Spring assizes, 1838, found guilty, and sentenced to six months’ imprisonment with hard labour.—*Ibid*.

October 20.—Friday, a stag hunt took place near Alnwick. The stag was brought in a van from Chillingham castle, and set at large on Alnwick moor, near the western toll-bar, where a numerous assemblage attended to witness the sport. A great number of carriages filled with ladies, were on the ground, and among the spectators were the hon. Charles Grey, Mr. Poulett Thompson, and other distinguished visitors from Howick. The place of starting gave the spectators a commanding view in all directions, and the stag was followed by lord Ossulston’s stag hounds in full pursuit round a considerable part of Alnwick moor, taking a north easterly direction towards the town, where it was headed, and pursued westward over Alnwick, Lemmington, and Edlingham moors, where it was turned toward the south, and, at last took refuge in an out-house among some young cattle, at Shieldikes, where it was captured, and replaced in the van. The chase occupied upwards of two hours, and was confined within a circuit of six or seven miles from the place of starting.—*Ibid*.

October 21.—Saturday, a fire broke out in a smith’s shop, in the ship building yard of Messrs. Mills, at Deptford, near Sunderland. The smith’s shop, offices, and storehouse, together with a great part of the materials, &c., contained therein, were totally destroyed; bu

by timely exertions being used, the flames were extinguished without doing further damage.—*Local Papers*.

1837 (Oct. 21).—This day, Saturday, was published, at No. 89, Side, Newcastle, the first number of a new weekly journal entitled “The Northern Liberator.”—*Ibid*.



HEAD OF THE SIDE, in the beginning of the Nineteenth Century.

October 26.—The son of Thomas Lee, clogger, Alston, who was only three years of age, fell into the Mill-burn, which runs through the town. The burn is conveyed through a conduit, and furnishes water power in its course to three mills. The poor little fellow, who was playing with another little child, fell into the water which was swollen by the rain, close to the mouth of the conduit. A young man named Hownam, with great presence of mind, instantly ran down the street to the end of the conduit, where he arrived just in time to catch the boy when he was washed out. Life appeared to be extinct; but proper remedies being instantly resorted to, animation was restored. The boy was much cut and bruised in his face, head, and body. The conduit through which he was carried by the force of the stream has a rapid descent, and is about three hundred yards long. The preservation of the little fellow's life was, under the circumstances, miraculous.—*Ibid*.

Same day, the first general meeting of the North of England Society for the Promotion of the Fine Arts, was held in the Lecture

room of the Literary and Philosophical Society, Newcastle, the lord bishop of Durham presided with great urbanity; and, in opening the business, delivered an excellent address in favour of the objects of the infant society. Lord Ravensworth honoured the meeting with his presence, and the company included the principal gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood. The society was constituted, a code of rules adopted, and a series of resolutions passed. The following is an outline of the plan which the committee proposed the society should pursue in furthering its objects:—That a school be instituted for the instruction of students both in the higher departments of art, and in its application to designing for manufactures; that a library of works of art, a collection of anatomical casts for the use of the students, a collection of casts from both ancient and modern sculpture, and, gradually, a permanent gallery of art, should be formed; that the society should hold, periodically, exhibitions of works of art, to which artists in all parts of the kingdom should be invited to contribute; and that the periodical exhibition include models of new or improved machinery, designs for ornamental work of every description, specimens of china, glass, &c., manufactured within this district or elsewhere. On the conclusion of the business, thanks were voted to the right rev. chairman, by acclamation, who returned thanks. An interesting speech was delivered during the proceedings by Mr. J. Lowes, who had been connected for thirty years with the porcelain manufacture in Worcestershire and Staffordshire, and who had more recently been engaged at the Rockingham porcelain works, near Sheffield. Mr. Lowes declared that of the 1,400 painters, gilders, &c., of porcelain in this country, not more than fourteen were acquainted with the art of design.—*Local Papers.*

1837 (Oct. 29).—The sacrament of confirmation was administered at the Roman catholic chapel, Newcastle, by the right rev. Dr. Briggs, vicar apostolic of the northern district, to 309 young persons and adults. The service commenced with a grand high mass, chaunted by the rev. William Riddell, the choir performing the sublime and beautiful mass, No. 1, by Hadyn, in a manner highly creditable to the organist, Mr. Sigmont, and all concerned. After which the bishop, attired in his pontificals, wearing his mitre, and holding the crosier in his hand, having taken his seat in front of the altar, delivered an impressive address to those about to be confirmed, on the nature of the sacrament, and its effects upon those who receive it with the requisite dispositions. During the administration of the sacrament, his lordship was assisted by the rev. James Worswick and the rev. William Riddell; and at the conclusion of the ceremony, those who had been confirmed were again addressed by

his lordship from the altar, seated as before, in a most solemn and dignified manner, on the duties and obligations of a christian life.—*Local Papers.*

1837 (Oct. 29).—A new Tabernacle for the Wesleyan Association was opened at Philadelphia, in the Sunderland circuit, by Mr. Edwin Watmough, of Newcastle, and Mr. Robinson of Sunderland, Association minister, and Mr. T. B. Young.—*Ibid.*

October 31.—One of those exhibitions which occasionally disgrace this kingdom, a prize fight, took place at Middleton Bridge, near Cambo, Northumberland, about 20 miles from Newcastle. The combatants were a black, who called himself young Molyneux, and a man of the name of Renwick, who resided at Winlaton, near Newcastle. The black who had acquired an unenviable celebrity in the ring, from the “game,” as it is called, and the science displayed in his numerous successful contests, though not a heavy man (being only about eleven stones) is described as presenting a figure which a sculptor might desire to model. The Winlaton man is a powerful blackguard (weighing upwards of thirteen stones), and was a notorious breaker of the laws. The black, who was visiting Newcastle on a “sparing tour,” and to teach the art of “self-defence,” was challenged by his opponent to fight for £25 a-side. Owing to the very spirited and proper interference of Thomas Anderson, esq., of Kirkharle, a magistrate of the county, the fight did not commence until five o’clock. The contest lasted an hour and a half, and an idea may be formed of its severity from the fact that 87 rounds were fought, with half a minute rest between each round. With the exception of the first five rounds, it does not appear to have been a scientific battle. The black, (darkness having come on) in the latter part of the fight, butted his antagonist with his head; he won the battle, and the Winlaton man was left on the field nearly dead. He was dreadfully punished.—*Ibid.*

November 1.—The new Monkwearmouth wet dock, on the north side of the Wear, was opened in due form, on the above day Wednesday, amid the firing of guns, ringing of bells, fireworks, and other demonstrations of rejoicing, which were kept up during the day. About four in the afternoon, the brig Iona, splendidly decorated, and having on board a number of ladies and gentlemen, with a band of music playing, sailed down the river, and entered the dock in gallant style, amid the loud huzzas of thousands of spectators. Two other new vessels also entered the dock, one of which was built by Mr. Johnston, of Hylton, and is upwards of 300 tons burthen; the other was built by Mr. Laing, of Deptford, and is upwards of 600 tons burthen. The works consist of an inner and an outer dock or basin;

the one 6 and the other $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres in extent; but it can be considerably extended at a comparatively trifling expence, and will accommodate about one hundred sail of large ships. The event was also celebrated by a ball in the evening, at the New Inn, Monkwearmouth, which was numerously attended.—*Local Papers*.

1837 (Nov. 2).—About one o'clock on the morning, a fire was discovered in the shop, straw hat warehouse, &c., belonging to Mr. John Armstrong, in the High street, Sunderland. Alarm was instantly given, and the fire engines brought to the spot without delay, but in consequence of no water being in the pipes, a delay of upwards of an hour was occasioned before the engines could be brought into play, during which the flames made rapid progress. In this dilemma Mr. John Ranson opened the gates of the Mark Quay Brewery, of which he was superintendent, and also those of his own brewery in Robinson's lane, from which a supply of water was obtained that had the effect of preserving the adjoining property. Mr. Armstrong's premises however, with the furniture, &c., were almost totally destroyed. The military, and the engines from the barracks were soon upon the spot and rendered much service, though it was not till nearly daylight that the flames were effectually subdued.—*Ibid*.

November 5.—A fire broke out in Mr. Hair's Saw-mills, at St. Peter's Quay. By the combined exertions of the police (who made the discovery) and the captain and crew of a vessel lying alongside, the fire was extinguished in about forty minutes. The North British, the Newcastle, and the Newcastle and North of England fire engines were quickly on the spot, but their services were not required. It is not known how the fire originated. The damage done was very considerable.—*Ibid*.

In the afternoon of the same day, a man named John Atkinson, who had been in the employment of Mr. Sorsbie, corn merchant, as a warehouseman, in a fit of insanity, threw himself out of a window, at the foot of the Butcher Bank, Newcastle, from the height of more than fifty feet. The unhappy man, who was about sixty years of age, died within six hours afterwards. A coroner's inquest was held on view of the body of the unfortunate man, on Monday, when the jury returned a verdict of "Insanity."—*Ibid*.

Same day, died, at Heworth shore lane, near Gateshead, aged 100 years, Mrs. Margaret Purvis; she retained her usual faculties to the last.—*Ibid*.

November 6.—As the steam vessel Freedom, of Stockton, was towing two vessels out of the river Tees, the boiler burst, and the vessel was blown up, and sunk immediately. There were three men on board, two of whom were much injured, though they were likely to

recover; but the master, John White, lost his life, having been blown up with the vessel.—*Local Papers*.



1837.—In the autumn of this year, were found, (buried among the loose earth and rubbish on the ground floor of the northern extremity of the western side of the quadrangle of the Hospital of the Blessed Virgin, Westgate, Newcastle,) several fragments of two antient sepulchral slabs, bearing the devices usually found on monuments of the same date. The first, which is the most perfect, is that of a priest, and bears on the left of the cross, the chalice and host; the marks on the right are very obscure, but may originally have depicted the hand in the act of benediction. The chalice, the cross and its base, are almost unprecedented, despite of the multitude of forms in which the emblem of our faith has been delineated. The fragments measure in length 5ft. 7in., and in width, at the broadest part, 1ft. 9½in. The other (3ft. 3in. by 1ft. 11½in.) is the lower half of another similar monument, but the head has not been discovered. The stones were afterwards presented to the Society of Antiquaries, Newcastle, by the Master of the Hospital.—*MS. Col.*

November 7.—A new Roman Catholic chapel at Houghton-le-Spring, was opened for worship, on which occasion Dr. Briggs, vicar apostolic of the northern district, celebrated a pontifical high mass, assisted by the rev. Wm. Riddell, as deacon, and the rev. James Dugdale, as sub-deacon. The building is from designs by Mr. Bonomi of Durham, and is calculated to accommodate 400 persons.—*Local Papers*.

November 8.—Between six and seven o'clock on the evening of this day, Wednesday, a fire broke out in the lower workshop of Mr. R. Small, turner, Groat-market, Newcastle, by which Mr. Small, and an apprentice named John Amory, were severely burnt. It appeared that the cause of the fire originated with the master and the boy, who were down stairs employed in pouring spirits of wine from one bottle to another, when the spirits igniting from the light of the candle, suddenly enveloped them and the shop in flames. Assistance having arrived, Mr. Small and the boy were both rescued, and a plentiful supply of water being at hand, the fire was soon got under.—*Ibid.*

November 9.—The Wesleyan chapel, at Houghton-le-Spring, in

the county of Durham, was opened for worship, where sermons were preached in the morning and evening by the rev. Theophilus Lessey, of Liverpool, and in the afternoon by the rev. Isaac Keeling, of Sunderland.—*Local Papers.*

1837 (Nov. 9).—The following gentlemen were elected mayors and sheriffs:—

NEWCASTLE.—Thomas Emerson Headlam, esq., M.D., mayor; John Carr, esq., sheriff.

GATESHEAD.—James Pollock, esq.

SUNDERLAND.—Richard Spoor, esq.

DURHAM.—John Burrell, esq.

STOCKTON.—Robert Lamb, esq.

MORPETH.—E. A. Hedley, esq., M. D.

BERWICK.—George Johnston, esq., mayor; John Clay, esq., sheriff.—*Ibid.*

November 12.—Sunday evening, those interesting atmospheric phenomena, the Northern Lights, were observed in Newcastle and neighbourhood, in great brilliancy. The coruscations, of a deep rose colour, ascended from the horizon towards the zenith, in an extensive range from the north-east to the south-west. About six o'clock in the evening, a luminous red arch was observed to extend over the western portion of the heavens, and after passing through various gradations in respect of colour and size, disappeared. It soon after re-appeared, and was immediately recognized as a beautiful specimen of the Aurora Borealis. The colour, that of a bright crimson, presented a striking but not unpleasing contrast to the softer light of the moon, which was at that time shining in its highest refulgence. About eight, the attention of those who were observing the Aurora, was diverted to the singular phenomenon of a bright star, apparently proceeding from the north, which, after making a rapid descent in the form of a rocket, suddenly burst, and, scattering its luminous particles into the most beautiful forms, vanished in the atmosphere, from which it seemed to arise. This was succeeded by others, all similar to the first in shape and the manner of their disappearance. The whole display terminated about ten, when dark clouds overspread the earth, and prevented any farther observation.—*Ibid.*

November 13.—Monday, considerable alarm was excited at Chirton, near North Shields, by the effect of a creep in the workings of the colliery beneath that place, which caused the ground to sink across the turnpike road, under the cottages, and along the gravel walk in the adjoining grounds of Mr. Collingwood's house. Several panes of glass were broken in the cottages, and the doors were completely fixed by the consequent pressure upon them.—*Ibid.*

1837 (Nov. 14).—The Sunderland new police first entered on duty.
—*Local Papers.*

November 19.—Died, at her residence at Harrogate, Mrs. Van Mildert, widow of the late lord bishop of Durham. Her remains were placed beside those of her husband in Durham cathedral, on Thursday morning, December 28. The funeral was strictly private.
—*Ibid.*

November 20.—A very melancholy accident occurred at the works of Mr. George Rennoldson, engineer, South Shields. A number of gentlemen and ladies had assembled to witness the trial of a new locomotive engine, amongst whom was Mr. Rennoldson's youngest daughter, about fifteen years of age. The steam being raised, the engine was set to work, but after being in operation for a quarter of an hour, the motion was suspended, that some parts of the machinery might be oiled. The safety valve had hitherto been free, and performed its functions without interruption. A cottrel, without the circumstance being known, had in the interval broken, and a portion of it fallen down so as to choke the valve. The consequence was that, although no rent took place in the tube, the steam collected in the boiler, so as to force the water through the doors of the fire-box, and scald four of the spectators. Two made their escape without serious injury, but the young lady we have named was so dreadfully scalded that she expired in fourteen hours, and a fine youth, apprentice to Mr. Rennoldson, died from the injuries he received in about thirty hours. This melancholy accident made a strong impression on all present. The valve was loaded at not more than 43 pounds per square inch, although it had been previously tested with a load of 50 pounds.—*Ibid.*

November 21.—The foundation stone of a new chapel for the Primitive Methodists, in Nelson-street, adjoining the new markets, Newcastle, was laid by the rev. William Clowes, from Hull, who first preached Primitive Methodist doctrines, and established societies in the north. He gave a brief history of the rise and progress of Primitive Methodism; and was assisted in the religious part of the service by the revs. Henry Hebron, from Sunderland, and William Towler, from Berwick. Upwards of 800 members and friends afterwards took tea together in the Music hall; after which suitable addresses were delivered by the chairman, Mr. McAllum, and revs. H. Hebron and W. Towler. The chapel is calculated for the accommodation of above 1,000 persons, one third of which are free seats for the poor; also a large school room beneath the chapel, adapted for the tuition of five hundred children. The proceeds of the meeting in the Music hall amounted to £46. 16s.—*Ibid.*

1837 (Nov. 22).—An almost miraculous escape from being dashed to pieces was experienced, by a man employed at the colliery at Diana's grove, near Newcastle. A plank having been drawn up by a rope fastened round its middle, when at the top of the shaft, the man at the bank laid hold of one end of it, and being slippery in consequence of the mud which was upon it, the rope slid and the timber fell. An old nail which was in the plank, caught the man's sleeve, and jerked him over the shaft, when providentially his arm was thrown over a piece of wood on the opposite side, and he hung across the pit's mouth, supported by the toe of his shoe on one side, and the wood over which his arm was placed, on the other. While in this perilous situation he called for help, and being heard by the engineman, assistance was procured, and by attaching a rope to his body he was safely rescued.—*Local Papers.*

November 24.—Died, at Seone-palace, Perthshire, after a few hours illness, Louisa, viscountess Stormont, third daughter of Cuthbert Ellison, esq., of Hebburn hall, near Newcastle. Her ladyship was married on the 8th of April, 1829, to lord Stormont, eldest son of the earl of Mansfield, and member for the county of Perth. She left two children, the hon. Louisa Nina, born on the 18th of July 1830, and a son born on the 22nd of July, 1832. The interment took place on Monday, in the family mausoleum in the ancient palace at Seone. Lord Stormont, who was in London, attending to his parliamentary duties, when her ladyship expired, was chief-mourner. His noble father the earl of Mansfield, the hon. captain Cathcart, and Mr. Ellison attended.—*Ibid.*

Same day, a fire was discovered in the stack yard belonging to the rev. E. S. Thurlow, at Houghton-le-Spring, Durham, by which one stack of wheat was destroyed before the flames were subdued. Fortunately the evening was calm, otherwise the whole range of stacks would in all probability have been burnt; but the prompt assistance of the inhabitants, aided by a fire engine from lord Londonderry's colliery, confined the fire to the stack where it first originated. It was thought that the conflagration was caused by the sparks which fell from a lighted tar rope, which a person was bearing with him on the road.—*Ibid.*

November.—As some workmen were employed in making a vault at Tynemouth, they dug up a stone coffin, in which were two skulls and a number of other human bones; a quantity of glass was likewise found, which had the appearance of being stained, it was very thick; and the lead was in an excellent state of preservation.—

November 25.—Saturday, a dreadful accident happened to a little fellow named Forster Turnbull; who, whilst looking through

an opening in the wall of a blacksmith's shop in the Bottle bank, Gateshead, one of his play fellows ran a piece of red hot iron into his face, by which he instantly lost the sight of one eye and there was little hope of saving the other.—*Local Papers.*



OLD HOUSES, Bottle Bank, Gateshead (1844).

About this period a saline chalybeate well was discovered on the property of Jonathan Richardson, esq., near Shotley-bridge. The water has been analysed by an eminent chemist, and has been found to contain the following ingredients. In order to facilitate a comparison between it and the Harrogate water, the result of the analysis of both is placed in juxtaposition :

CONTENTS OF ONE WINE PINT.

<i>Shotley Bridge Holywell</i>		<i>Harrogate.</i>	
Sulphate of Soda	21 Grains.	—	Grains.
.....Magnesia	3½		1½
.....Lime	4 1-5th..		0¼
Muriate of Soda	9 1-5th..		37½
.....Lime	—		2¼
Carbonate of Lime ..	—		0¼
Oxide of Iron.....	1		0 5-16ths..
Carbonic Acid....	1 1-5th*—		—

The neighbourhood of Shotley bridge is exceedingly healthy and picturesque. The spa is situated about a mile below the village and

* If not analysed at the place it would lose.

not far from the Darwent. It is approached by a gravel walk which leads from the new public road between Shotley bridge and Scotswood bridge, in a winding direction through a small plantation to the margin of the Darwent, and then proceeds, overshadowed by trees along the side of the river. It is nearly in the centre of a piece of finely cultivated ground, which on one side is washed by the river before mentioned, and the other is environed by forest trees. The place is remarkably beautiful, and in summer presents a scene of peculiar richness and sweetness. There are numerous delightful walks in the neighbourhood of the village and spa. The views on the Darwent above Shotley bridge will afford to those disposed to walk three or four miles a rich and varied treat. The beauty of the rock and woodland scenery in this part is confessedly great, and to be appreciated properly, requires only to be viewed. To those who will take a ramble, the windings of the Darwent, as well of two small rivulets, which, soon after their confluence, flow into it, the towering rocks crowned with wood that overhang the waters, and the lofty swell of the banks covered with majestic forest trees, will present a grand and magnificent scene. In this district are extensive lead mines which also deserve a visit from those who are curious about subterranean productions. And the old tower which lifts its hoary head a little to the west of this place will afford to the antiquarian perhaps a new and productive object of research.—*Local Papers.*

1837 (Dec. 6.)—A melancholy catastrophe from an explosion of foul air occurred at Springwell colliery, near Wrekington, four miles from Newcastle. The pit is the property of the right hon. lord Ravensworth and partners, and we may here observe that in 1832 a similar accident occurred there, by which upwards of thirty human beings were hurried into eternity. The catastrophe we have now to describe occurred between nine and ten o'clock on the morning of the above day, Wednesday, when, of twenty-nine men and boys at work in that part of the Hutton seam of coal where the blast took place, twenty-seven unfortunately perished, viz.—fifteen men and twelve boys. What added to the calamity was, that many of the men left wives and large families, who were thus deprived of their natural protection, and of their chief dependence for support. On Thursday, an inquest was held before Michael Hall, esq. (coroner for Chester ward,) and a respectable jury, at the house of Mr. Thomas Maughan, the Springwell inn, on the bodies of James Henderson and Thomas Mason. The witnesses examined were—Nicholas Wood, esq., colliery-viewer, and general manager to lord Ravensworth and partners for their several works. Mr. Geo. Southern, resident viewer to the Springwell colliery, Mr. C. Steel, overman to the colliery, and several pitmen

who had worked in the mine, both recently and formerly. From the testimony adduced, we learn that the depth of the pit to the Hutton-seam is 128 fathoms, and that the dip of the seam of coal is to the east, at a decline of one foot in sixteen. After the accident in 1832, every available means were adopted to improve the ventilation of the mine, the most expensive of which was the formation of a communication from the Springwell pit to another shaft on the Black Fell—the former being the downcast, the latter the upcast, so as to secure, as nearly as the nature of such works will admit, a free current of air. The pit, with these improvements, was not considered by the pitmen to be at all “fiery,” to use their own expressive language, but, on the contrary, they deemed it to be quite safe. It appeared, also, that the state of the working parts had been vigilantly attended to; indeed, owing to their strict attention to duty, the resident viewer and the overman narrowly escaped destruction, as they had just left the part where the explosion occurred, and were blown down by the after-current. In similar calamities the immediate cause of the accident remains shrouded in mystery, but in the present case a discovery was made which led to the strongest inference that the accident was so purely accidental, that it could not have been prevented by any foresight or prudence. The workings of the pit were in two different parts, called “districts.” One of these districts, about a mile from the shaft, and where sixty-one men and boys were at work, was not affected by the blast. In the district where the accident happened, about half a mile from the shaft, the operations of working both what is called “the whole coal,” and “the broken,” were going on. To our distant readers we may explain, that “whole coal,” in mining phrase, means the seam in its imbedded, unbroken state. In operating upon this, the pitmen work out stated portions, leaving “pillars” of coal to support the roof of their subterranean workshop. Eventually these pillars are removed, the roof being temporarily sustained in the mean time by props of wood, and this is called “working the broken.” This “broken” part of the workings of coal mines is always considered the most dangerous, from its greater liability to the generation of foul air, and in removing the pillars, safty lamps are exclusively used in Springwell pit. The custom is, however, when working the unbroken seam, to blast it with gunpowder, and in this operation the men used candles. It is in the pillar workings, however, where, notwithstanding the employment of the safety lamp—and the still further precaution adopted of supplying the men with locked lamps as they went down to their work—that the fatal accident is supposed to have occurred. There remained traces of the fire in the “broken” workings, particularly

the scorching of the pit props. Near there, also, was found the safety-lamp of Edward Price, in such a position as to lead to an inference that it had fallen across the rolley way, and been accidentally run over and broken.—Thomas M^c Nay, waggon way wright, John Todd and William Potts, pitmen, spoke to finding the broken lamp, and tracing the explosion from the northern extremity where the lamp was found to the south end, and from thence westward to the whole coal working north to the shaft. The gauze wire and glass of the lamp were broken and otherwise much bulged in, and the body of Edward Price was found not far from it. The lamp was identified from the number on it as being the one the unfortunate man had used, and the breaking of it, in the opinion of the witnesses above named, was the cause of the fire.—The jury after a few minutes consultation, returned a verdict of Accidental Death.—Three horses, as well as the unfortunate men, were killed by the explosion. The workings of the pit were less injured than might have been expected.—*Local Papers.*

1837 (Dec. 6).—A deputation from the Law Society of Newcastle, headed by John Fenwick, esq., waited upon the town council of that borough, for the purpose of recommending to that body an extension of the jurisdiction of the Mayor's and Sheriff's courts. Mr. Fenwick said "he might state for the information of those who were not versed in the forensic history of the town, that these courts were courts of prescription, confirmed by a charter of Elizabeth, for the purpose of affording substantial justice to all who should resort to to them. The gentlemen who practised in those courts were distinguished for their knowledge and their liberality in the practice of their profession. For thirty five years he had attended those courts and he never knew a false judgement given, and no verdict was ever attempted to be set aside. It appeared, therefore, desirable to have those courts extended in their jurisdiction, and an act, which was passed in the last session of parliament, enabled the council, together with magistrates of the district sought to be included, to petition her majesty in council for a grant for their extension. Great good would be done by an enlargement of the jurisdiction, especially if it were extended to Gateshead, for divided only by our noble river, their interests were the same, there was nothing which affected the inhabitants of Newcastle, which did not affect the inhabitants of Gateshead, and nothing which affected the inhabitants of the latter place which did not in like manner affect the former, and being thus, as it were, one people, they wished to have the benefit of this enactment." The mayor said the subject should have the council's best consideration, and the deputation having with-

drawn, the draft of a petition was presented to the council by Mr. Philipson, which he moved should be engrossed, have the corporate seal affixed to it, and be presented to her majesty. The proposition having been seconded by Mr. Alderman Bigge, was finally adopted by the council. In the month of March, 1838, the mayor of Newcastle, received her majesty's order in council, extending the jurisdiction of the mayor's court, the sheriff's court and the court of conscience of the borough of Newcastle upon Tyne, to the borough of Gateshead.—*Local Papers.*



1837.—This year, while workmen were engaged in some repairs and levelling in the church-yard of Saint Mary, Gateshead, just within the gate opposite to the rectory, they found a sepulchral slab of small size, bearing a cross of unusual form, and the shears, supposed to be the sign of a female. It measures in length 1ft. 11½ in., and in breadth 1ft. 1½ in. It was afterwards presented to the Society of Antiquaries, Newcastle.—*MS. Col.*

December 9.—A fire was discovered in some bed flocking in a room situated in the new wing of the Newcastle Infirmary. An alarm was in consequence given, and the engines of the Newcastle, North British, and Newcastle and North of England insurance companies arrived about six o'clock, in the morning. The fire happily had been extinguished, but the damage done was considerable. The fire seems to have originated from the heat of an adjoining flue.—*Ibid.*

December 9.—A boy about five years of age, named Kirkup, slipped, unperceived, into Mr. Gallon's paper manufactory, at the Felling shore, near Gateshead, and climbed upon one of the wheels there. The weight of the boy, it is supposed, set the machinery in motion, and he unfortunately had both his legs wrenched off.—*Ibid.*

December 14.—A little after 5 o'clock on the evening of this day, Thursday, considerable alarm was occasioned on the Quayside, Newcastle, in consequence of a sudden and loud report being heard and flames seen issuing from the office windows of Mr. Robert Proctor, broker. It appeared that a young man in the service of Mr. Proctor had been imprudently handling a flask containing gunpowder, when by some means it exploded, blowing out the two front windows, and severely scorching the young man over the face and head. The flames were promptly extinguished.—*Ibid.*

December 18.—The first marriage in a dissenting place of worship, in Newcastle, was celebrated in New court chapel, Westgate street,

by the rev. George Sample. The parties were Mr. William Detchon and Miss Barbara Hurst.—*Local Papers*.

1837 (Dec. 20).—A serious accident occurred by the falling of some scaffolding which was in course of being removed from some new houses opposite Grainger street. The men had incautiously piled a quantity of planks upon one of the lower tiers, upon which the masons were working, which caused one of the ledgers to break, and precipitate the men to the bottom, a height of fourteen or fifteen feet, part of the planks falling with them. Five men were injured: two seriously, and were taken to the Infirmary.—*Ibid*.

December 20.—The weather which for some days had been remarkably stormy, with heavy rains, was more particularly so on this day, Wednesday, which was one of the most gloomy ever remembered, the rain falling incessantly the whole of the day, and in the evening the wind blew very strong from the north east, from which the shipping on the coast suffered seriously. The rivers in consequence were greatly flooded, particularly the Wear and the Brownie, which were much swollen. At Sunderland bridge, three miles south of Durham, the road was completely overflowed, and all passage stopped for a considerable time; the mail on Thursday morning, the 21st, got through with great difficulty, the horses being nearly carried away, and the Wellington and Hero coaches were detained several hours, and the inside passengers were obliged to mount the outside for safety, the water reaching high in the inside. In Sunderland harbour considerable damage was sustained; several keels and boats and a quantity of timber and other materials broke from their moorings and drifted out to sea, the loss arising from which was estimated at upwards of £3,000.—*Ibid*.

December 20.—Wednesday, about a quarter past nine o'clock in the morning, a boy named Edward Mennim, aged six and a half years, and whose father was an honest and industrious shepherd, residing at Biddlestone Edge, in the parish of Alwinton, Northumberland, was by his mother sent on an errand to Biddlestone, which is hardly half a mile from where he lived. Soon after his departure a heavy dense fog came on, and the boy not returning at the time his mother expected, his father and others went in search of him, and on going to Biddlestone learned he had not been there. They then became alarmed about him, thinking he had lost his way from the heavy fog, and continued their search until night, but without discovering the child. The distracted state of the parents, and the probably disastrous fate of the boy, called forth the sympathy of the inhabitants of the district, who were unremitting in their exertions in exploring every place of danger or concealment. The shep-

herds in the upland districts, in the most praiseworthy manner, traversed the country in all directions, and kept up a continued search during nearly twenty days, when, on Monday 8th of January, 1838, they found the body of the poor little fellow among the moorland hills, at a place called Hockley Dean Law, in the parish of Alnham, the child having traversed a wild and mountainous country (the southern range of the Cheviot hills,) and at a distance of about six miles, in a north-easterly direction from his home. The body was brought home to Biddlestone Edge by the shepherds. He was found lying upon his back, with his arms firmly thrust into the pockets of his trousers, his eyes were partially open, and his face retained the freshness and bloom of life and health, indicating that he had, from the effect of cold and exhaustion, slept into death. His feet and legs were bare, his clogs and stockings having probably been torn off while traversing the marshes in the dells; the other parts of the dress were the same as when he left home. Many rumours had got spread about the country, that the boy had been "kid-napped," and taken into Scotland, which roused all that part of the country, and the shepherds came from far and near, some coming a distance of eight and ten miles to aid in recovering the lost child. Thomas Clennell, esq., of Harbottle castle, whose feelings are at all times alive to distress, took an active part in the case of the lost child; as also the rev. A. Proctor, vicar of Alwinton, the hon. Mr. Stourton of Biddlestone hall, and the Messrs. Grey. An inquest was held on the following day, before Thomas Adams Russell, esq., on view of the body. Verdict of the jury, "That the deceased lost his way, and died through exhaustion and the inclemency of the weather."—*Local Papers*.

1837 (Dec. 22).—A serious disturbance took place at Byker, among a party of excavators employed on the Newcastle and North Shields' railway, in which some policemen who interfered were most inhumanly treated. The men had been drinking at a public house, where they had run up a score, to be discharged when they received their wages; but, from some misunderstanding, the hostess, it appears, after they had had a certain quantity, refused to fill them any more, when they began to quarrel and fight among themselves, upon which she sent for the police, who took one or two of the men into custody. Whilst conveying them to the station house, however, a body of excavators attacked the policemen, whom they soon overpowered, and rescued the prisoners. The policemen defended themselves for some time with their backs against a wall, but they were at length thrown down and trampled upon most ferociously—one man, named, William Sterling, being seriously injured. They at last obtained refuge

in the houses, and one of them, named, William Thompson, having escaped from the crowd, rode off express to Newcastle for assistance. Mr. Stephens, with his usual activity, accompanied by a large detachment of the police force, repaired immediately to the spot, where he succeeded in apprehending a number of the ringleaders, who were conveyed to Newcastle and lodged in safe custody. Two of the ringleaders, named Peter M'Annaly and William Duncan, were committed for trial at the Sessions. Ten others were convicted in various degrees and fined £5 each, or imprisonment, in default of payment, and the remainder were discharged.—*Local Papers*.

1837 (Dec. 23.)—William Losh, esq. of Benton hall, near Newcastle, received a patent for “improvements in decomposing muriate of soda (common salt), part of which improvements are also applicable to the condensing vapours of other processes.”—*Ibid*.

This year, Hamilton street chapel, Presbyterian, Monkwearmouth, founded. The register of births and baptisms extend from 1827 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

END OF VOLUME FOUR.



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ERRATA.

By an error of the transcriber the account of the murder of Lee, in Pipewellgate, Gateshead, was placed under September 30, 1836, instead of September 30, 1837:

The reader is requested to cancel the account of the opening of the organ at Ovingham, incorrectly given at p. 339.



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